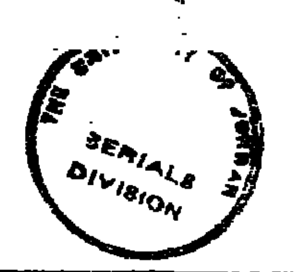


Last U.S. Troops Arrive in Kuwait

KUWAIT CITY — The last batch of U.S. troops to arrive in Kuwait set up their desert camps on Monday and prepared for live-fire war games in the desert but Washington signalled its crisis with Iraq was easing.

The last troops arrived in Kuwait from Fort Hood, Texas on Sunday, bringing the total number of reinforcements to arrive in four days to "approximately 3,000," Lieutenant Colonel Thomas Nickerson said.

(Contd on Pg. 10)



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Tehran Threatens Court Action Against Germany

FRANKFURT, Germany — Iran may take Germany to court - for allegedly helping Iraq develop chemical weapons in the 1980s - if a Berlin judge convicts the Tehran government of complicity in the 1992 murder of four Kurdish oppposition figures, Iran's foreign minister warned in a newspaper interview.

In Monday's *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati said both countries should "act smart" to avoid "endless conflicts" from the trial.

(Contd on Pg. 10)

Velayati Underlines Iran's Commitment to Anti-Terrorism Campaign, Nuclear Disarmament



Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati, addressing the 51st General Assembly reiterated Iran's stand on terrorism, nuclear disarmament, regional security and the current situation in northern Iraq.

He laid emphasis on Iran's commitment to participate in any serious, comprehensive and rule-based universal cooperation to combat and eradicate the inhuman phenomenon of international terrorism as well as its commitment to actively participate in campaign against any mass destruction weapons.

"Levelling politically motivated accusations against one or few states, group or region cannot and will not help in the resolution of this major international problem", Velayati stressed.

The eradication of the international menace of terrorism, requires serious global cooperation, Velayati said, outlining certain criteria which can be the basis of the task.

Condemnation and rejection of all forms of terrorism, regardless of the identity of victims or perpetrators, and irrespective of their political tendencies and objectives, refusal to provide sanctuary to terrorists or terrorist groups and prevention of operation by or on behalf of terrorists and cessation of all baseless and unsubstantiated propaganda and allegation will help eradicate terrorism, Velayati stressed.

Referring to the opposition of a very few nuclear powers with the nuclear disarmament within a time-bound framework, Velayati said along with many other Non-Aligned States, Iran will join the signatories of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT), solely because of her commitment to be an active participant in any effort to combat the inhuman weapons of mass destruction, he said.

(Contd on Pg. 10)

Israel's 'Warlike' Statements Could Provoke Arabs

CAIRO — Egypt warned on Monday that Israel's "warlike" statements to Syria could provoke a similar reaction in the Arab world and torpedo the Middle East peace process.

"The war drums being beaten by Israeli leaders and their threats to use the military option are of a nature that they could dash all peaceful efforts and without doubt provoke similiar reaction," assistant Egyptian Foreign Minister Fathi al-Shazli said.

He was responding to statements by Israeli Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai on Sunday warning Syria against the temptation of using military pressure to force Israel back to the negotiating table on its terms.

"I issue this warning to Syrian President Hafez al-Assad: 'Remember that Israel is strong and

(Contd on Pg. 10)

Fifty Bodies Recovered From Latest Srebrenica Mass Grave



JUSICI, Bosnia-Herzegovina (September 22): A Bosnian Muslim woman visits her destroyed and looted house in the village of Jusici in the zone of separation some 40 km west of Tuzla in the Serb entity. Some 120 of the 1,000 villagers that were ethnically cleansed in 1992 are now returning to their homes only to find them destroyed. *(AFP PHOTO)*

TUZLA, Bosnia-Herzegovina — International experts working at a mass grave site in eastern Bosnia linked to the fall of Srebrenica have recovered 50 bodies so far, an official here said Monday.

Laure Vollen, spokeswoman for a human rights group involved in the dig, said that work was continuing at the site in Pilica, in northeast Bosnia, close to the border with *Serbia*. (Contd on Pg. 10)

Iran to Retaliate Against Slightest Pressure

Tehran Times Service



TEHRAN - Commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC), Major General Mohsen Rezaei, declared, "Undoubtedly, the strengthening of Iran's defensive and military capability is synonymous with the security and greater peace of our neighbors in the region."

The IRGC commander underscored Iran's growing defensive capability in his exclusive interview with the TEHRAN TIMES and rejected claims that the growth of Iran's military build-up and defensive capabilities poses a threat to regional countries.

"We have never waged war against any country, nor will we do so except against aggressors", said Mohsen Rezaei. The commander pointed out, "Our history indicates that the increase of our defensive powers has not posed a threat to our neighbors."

"Our power is a deterrent to aggressors," the commander stressed. "We believe that the growth of our defensive capabilities will not be a threat to others. "We will not employ this power in a way that would be detrimental to others."

Mohsen Rezaei pointed out that the weaker the Islamic Republic of Iran and other regional countries become, the more insecurity will loom over the region.

Major General Rezaei said Iran's military budget is allocated within the framework of defensive efficiency, stressing, "We don't regulate our military budget in accordance with grudges and spites."

"We are never scared of political propaganda launched by the Arabs and the Americans," Rezaei said. "Our needs are determined in accordance with our outlook."

In response to a question, the IRGC commander said the Americans strive to keep the region insecure and tension-ridden in order to rationalize their presence in the region, and at times threatening us, but their threats are empty.

Major General Rezaei added that Americans know that if the slightest incident occurs in the region, it may lead to a massive war which might spill over to other places, with the Americans

(Contd on Pg. 10)

Zyuganov Urges Yeltsin to Resign

STRASBOURG, France — Russian Communist Party boss Gennady Zyuganov said on Monday President Boris Yeltsin should resign because of his heart condition.

"We have been asking Mr. Yeltsin for a long time to take the break we've been recommending and to let reforms follow their course," Zyuganov told Reuters on a visit to Strasbourg, eastern France.

Zyuganov, defeated by Yeltsin in a run-off for the Russian presidency in July, also said he believed the elections had been irregular because Yeltsin had misled voters about his health.

"It amounts to *falsification*. The elections were not fair," he said during a break in meetings at the council of Europe's parliamentary assembly which he was attending.

He said the communist delegation to the 39-nation council would raise the *question* of Yelt-

(Contd on Pg. 10)

Kuwait Begins Tour to Defend Hosting of U.S. Troops

KUWAIT CITY — A Kuwaiti envoy left Monday for Iran on the first leg of a Middle East tour to explain why his country welcomed U.S. troops during a confrontation with Iraq.

Transportation Minister Jassem al-Aoun *told* the official KUNA news agency he was carrying a message from the Emir Sheikh Jaber al-Ahmad al-Sabah, about measures taken to ensure Kuwait's "security against recent Iraqi threats."

He said he was certain "Arab and Islamic countries would understand Kuwait's stand, and they would therefore support its measures to preserve security in the region and deter Iraq which is trying to threaten Kuwait."

Kuwait, the only Arab country to have supported the U.S. mis-

(Contd on Pg. 10)

New Clashes Erupt Between Taleban, Government Forces



ISLAMABAD — New clashes erupted Monday between the Taleban militia and Afghan government forces on a national highway east of Kabul leading to the Pakistan border, Afghan *sources said.*

The clashes followed reports from Kabul Sunday that government forces had advanced nearly 30 kilometers (*18 miles) in an of-*

(Contd on Pg. 10)

TEHRAN TIMES

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In the Name of Allah

Those who were haughty said: Surely we are deniers of what you believe in.

(HOLY QORAN)(7:76)

OPINION

A Strong Defense, Best Bulwark Against Enemy

Speaking on the anniversary of the Iraqi invasion of Iran, President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani warned the nation to be vigilant vis-a-vis the non-military plots of the enemy.

According to the president, the enemy has realized that it cannot defeat Iran on the military front, for Iran is strong enough to defend every speck of its territory. As a result, the enemy has resorted to complicated measures to undermine the Islamic Revolution. Its plots include those in the economic, political, cultural and scientific areas in order to hinder development in Iran.

On the economic front, not only has the enemy imposed sanctions on Iran, but taken unilateral measures with extraterritorial implications in a bid to deal the final blow to the Iranian economy. On the scientific front, the U.S. has withheld the transfer of technology and technological know-how to Iran.

On the political front, the U.S. and its Zionist appendix have orchestrated a dirty campaign to tarnish the image of the Islamic Republic of Iran. The U.S.-Zionist propaganda war has clutched at every straw to project Iran as a sponsor of international terrorism, and a country seeking to develop nuclear weapons. The U.S. and the Zionist regime, however, have not been able to produce even a single piece of evidence in support of their claims.

Thus far these plots have failed due to three reasons: (1) Iran's strong infrastructure enabling it to withstand those plots; (2) support of the masses of the Islamic system which stems from their awareness of international developments; and (3) international opposition to unilateral U.S. actions.

As president Rafsanjani has said, we can withstand the enemy's plots through vigilance on various fronts. On the economic front we need to rely on our domestic work force. In order to train an efficient work force, we must give priority to our universities, especially to research and development.

Unfortunately there is no feasible connection between our universities and our industry. Consequently, our industry has not been able to make a significant gain in certain areas. At the same time, our universities have not been utilized properly due to a lack of a dynamic nexus with our industry.

On the political front, our Foreign Ministry should endeavor to increase the number of our friends and reduce the number of our foes. We should, however, never compromise our principles in order to increase our friends.

Government Pays Special Attention to Youth Issues

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — On his visit to Zanjan Province, President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani visited the cities of Abhar, Khorramdareh and Takestan on Sunday and was warmly welcomed by the people of region.

Addressing a large gathering at Abhar Stadium, President Rafsanjani expressed appreciation for their massive turnout, saying that the people and officials of the city have taken key measures for the reconstruction of the country. The president further called on people to continue their efforts in this regard.

President Rafsanjani reiterated that Zanjan Province is one of the rich provinces in the country. "The water resources of ten billion square meters enable this province to take further steps towards development of its agricultural sector."

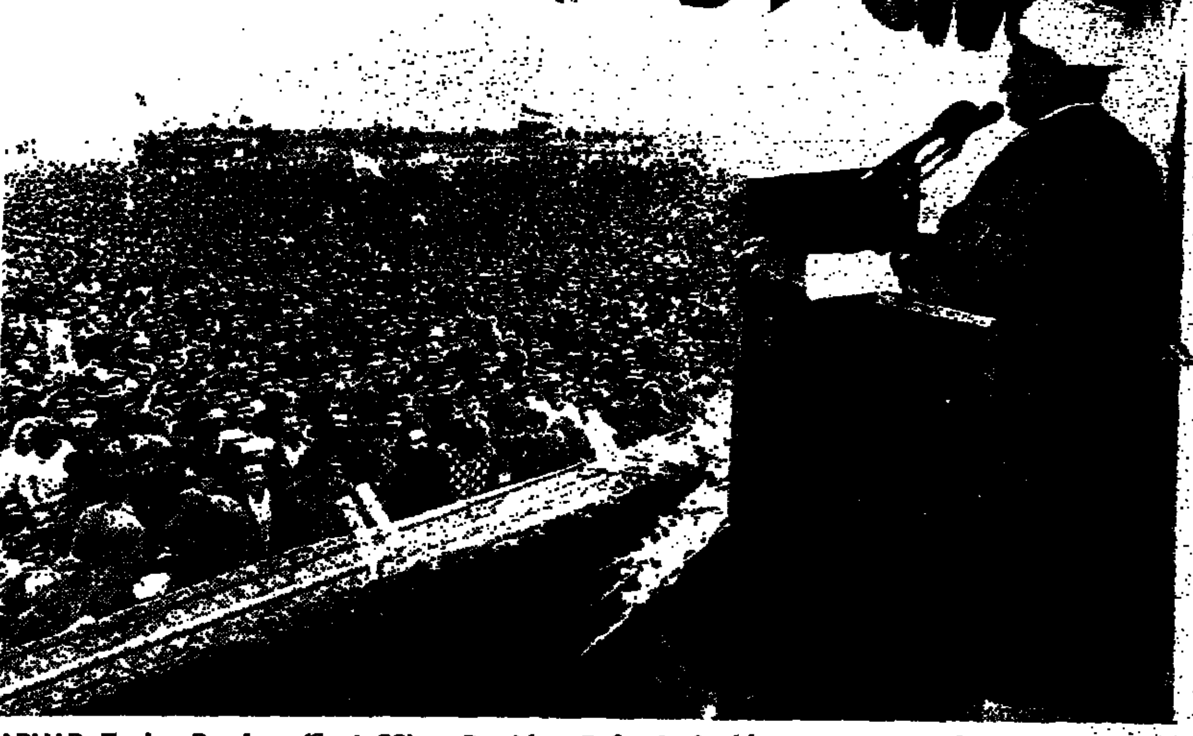
Referring to valuable mines, infrastructural facilities and skillful manpower in the province, the president emphasized that Zanjan Province should find its real position in the productive sector of the country.

The president further said that setting up cultural centers in provinces is one of the main priorities of the revolution which requires both people's and government's assistance.

He added that planning for the future is one of the main principles of the government, and that the government pays special attention to the youth's issues and the future of the country.

Speaking to the people who gathered in Takestan on the same day, President Rafsanjani noted the pivotal role of the people in this region in the victory of the Islamic Revolution and eight years of Sacred Defense: "Today, the Iranian people witness the result of their efforts which is the formation of an independent and powerful country in the world."

The president further referred to the recent success of Zanjan Province in implementing constructive projects and reiterated Zanjan, along with other provinces, has taken key steps towards development and construction.



ABHAR, Zanjan Province (Sept. 22) — President Rafsanjani addresses a group of people at Abhar Stadium here Sunday.

Tajikistan Calls For Continuation of Iran's Peace Efforts

DUSHANBE — UN Secretary General's Special Envoy to Tajikistan Gerd Dietrich Merrem called on Iran here Monday to continue its peace efforts in order to restore calm in the republic.

Merrem, who made the request in a meeting with Iran's Ambassador to Dushanbe Ali Ashraf Mojtahed Shabestari, expressed hope that Iran would use its influence to encourage belligerent parties to continue peace negotiations.

He said that he was hopeful that Tajik President Imomali Rakhmanov and leader of the opposition group Seyed Abdullah Nouri would attend a round table talks in a third country in the next one or two weeks.

He also expressed hope that the next round of peace talks would be resumed under supervision of such countries as Russia and Iran.

Mojtahed Shabestari said for his part that Iran was ready to mediate between the warring sides in Tajikistan and host a meeting between delegations from Tajik government and opposition forces.

(IRNA)

Velayati Meets Japanese Counterpart

UNITED NATIONS, New York — Iran's Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati and his Japanese counterpart Yukihiko Ikeda here Sunday night reviewed promotion of Tehran-Tokyo ties as well as regional and international cooperation.

During the meeting which was held on the sidelines of the 51st session of the UN General Assembly, strengthening of mutual cooperation at international bodies were also discussed by the two foreign ministers.

During his ten-day stay, Velayati is to meet with a number of senior officials including the UN Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali, the chairman of the UN General Assembly Esmael Razzali as well as officials from Islamic states and the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM).

He will also attend special meetings of foreign ministers of NAM member states, the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) and the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC) which will be held on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly meeting.

The Iranian foreign minister is also due to sign the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) on behalf of the Islamic Republic of Iran on Tuesday (today).

Velayati, heading a political delegation, arrived here Sunday evening.

(IRNA)

3rd Phase of Fath Maneuver Conducted in Persian Gulf

BANDAR ABBAS, Hormuzgan Province — The military exercises code-named 'Fath' continued for the third consecutive day in the Persian Gulf waters and the Strait of Hormuz on Monday.

The participant units successfully carried out their missions including shelling hypothetical enemy positions and destroying surface and mobile targets.

At this stage, the capabilities of telecommunication equipment used by participant forces, as well as the efficiency and readiness of troops backing up the forefront forces were assessed.

The four-day maneuver bagan on Saturday.

(IRNA)

Iran, UAE Sign Agreement on Ornithology

ABU DHABI — Iran and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) here Sunday signed a joint scientific agreement on studies and research in ornithology.

Mehran Rouzbehani, director general for international affairs of Iran's Environmental Protection Organization in a meeting Saturday with Mohammad al-Bavaredi, managing director of the UAE Ornithology Center inked the initial agreement.

The agreement calls for joint research especially on bustard, Rouzbehani told IRNA correspondent here.

Meanwhile, Abdulaziz al-Madfa', another official at the UAE Ornithology Center also told IRNA that the agreement further calls for cooperation among all the Persian Gulf states to preserve the ecosystem.

Expressing his satisfaction over the signing of the agreement, he said that both Iran and the UAE are trying to protect bustard and are currently engaged in studies in this regard.

(IRNA)

Over 1,000 Sick Kurdish Refugees Treated in Iran

SANANDAJ, Kurdestan Province — Some 1,300 sick or wounded Kurdish refugees from Iraq have been treated at Siranband and Bashmagh refugee camps near Baneh and Marivan cities, deputy head of the provincial Red Crescent Society said here on Sunday.

According to Fereidun Safar Ali, medical teams from the organization, backed by 15 ambulances are still busy treating the injured and sick refugees.

Meanwhile 282 of the injured and ill Kurdish refugees were taken to hospitals in cities of Sanandaj, Saghez and Baneh, he added.

According to the latest figures, the official said, a total of 35,000 refugees have already been settled in Siranband Refugee Camp.

According to another reporet from Kermanshah, two Belgian doctors of the group of "Doctors Without Frontiers" (Medecines Sans Frontieres) visited on Saturday the Kurdish refugees camp of Tapehrash in Sar-e Pol-e Zahab region in western Iran.

Governor of Sar-e Pol-e Zahab, Hossein Khosh Eghbal, said the two doctors have expressed their satisfaction with the medical treatment offered to refugees and promised to do their best to provide medicine and medical assistance to them.

The governor added that despite the recent visits paid by the experts and representatives of UNHCR in Tehran, World Food Organization and non-governmental charity organizations of Germany, no foreign assistance have been so far dispatched for the refugees accommodated in this camp.

(IRNA)

Sacred Defense Anniversary Marked in Hungary

VIENNA, Austria — On the occasion of 16th anniversary of the aggression launched by Iraq on Iran, a ceremony was held in the Iranian Embassy in Budapest, attended by Iranians risiding in Hungary, university students and the embassy staff.

The Iranian Ambassador to Budapest Abdol Reza Faraji in a speech to the audience lauded the bravery and sacrificing acts of the Iranian Muslim combatants during the 8 years of Sacred Defense.

Pionting to the post-war reconstruction period in Iran, he elaborated on national developmental projects implemented in the country in the said period.

(IRNA)

Children, Main Victims of Int'l Indifference to Refugees

SANANDAJ, Kurdestan Province — Governor of Iranian western town of Marivan Ali Yari said on Sunday that Iraqi children residing at refugee camps on Iranian border regions are the main victims of the indifference of international forums towards refugees.

He said with regards to harsh cold weather in the mountainous areas, the world may witness death of Kurdish refugees if the status quo persists.

He said despite delivery of medical services to the refugees, the danger of the spread of epidemics in the refugee camps is looming due to lack of attention to health care principles on the part of the refugees.

The governor of Marivan said all the relief and food supplies distributed among the refugees have been provided by the provincial officials and no assistance have yet been extended to the refugees by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

A team of the Medecine Sans Frontieres (Doctors Without Frontiers) visited the Bashmagh Refugee Camp last week and hailed the health services rendered by the Islamic Republic of Iran to the refugees.

(IRNA)

President Inaugurates Gas Pipeline Project in Zanjan

Tehran Times Times

TEHRAN - Construction operations of a gas pipeline to the cities of Hidaj and Sa'eenqal'e was launched in Zanjan on Sunday in the presence of President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani.

Deputy Oil Minister Mohammad-Nejad said on Sunday during the inauguration ceremony that once the project comes on stream, the number of cities benefitting from gas would reach 265, IRNA reported.

Mohammad-Nejad said that other projects were underway to supply 39 other cities with gas, out of which 15 are to be operational by the year end (to end 20 March, 1997).

He added that 22 power plants in Iran were consuming 40 million cubic meters of gas a day.

He put total amount of gas consumption in Iran during last year at over 36 billion cubic meters and predicted that the figure would stand at 40 billion by the year end.

The Iranian official said that the number of cities supplied with gas was merely five before triumph of the 1979 Islamic Revolution with gas consumption standing at three billion cubic meters annually.

He noted that the number of cities supplied with gas is expected to reach 300 by the Second Five-Year Economic Development Plan (1995- 1999).

The Number of the cities in Zanjan Province benefiting from gas has now raised to five from former three.

Projects are also underway to supply three other provincial cities with gas by next year (March 21, 1997-March 20, 1998) at a credit of Rls.32 billion.

Japanese "Have Yen, Will Invest" in India

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN - As hundreds of Japanese businessmen and industrialists make their way to India to sniff out lucrative new opportunities in the country's huge markets, Japanese Airlines are gearing up to grab a piece of the action.

Early this month, all Nippon Airways Co Ltd. (ANA) started flights twice a week between Osaka and Bombay, the first direct flights between the two nations. Next month it plans to launch flights between New Delhi and Tokyo, a Reuter dispatch reported.

Another Japanese airline plans to follow suit soon.

"Along with business potential I see tremendous tourism potential in India," said ANA Managing Director Yuzuru Masumoto. "I believe that India offers tourists a rich architectural and cultural heritage to explore."

India hopes its strengthening economy and pro-business policies will rope in more of Japan's notoriously cautious investors as a result of the India development forum held in Tokyo this past week.

The forum consisted of aid agencies led by the World Bank, Western donor nations, Japan and leading fund providers like investment banks.

"Japanese investors are pleased with the changes in India," Finance Secretary Montek Singh Ahluwalia said. "They may now see India as a very friendly place for investors."

Passenger traffic between India and Japan last year jumped 23 percent over 1994, Masumoto said, prompting ANA to launch operations.

But ANA is just one of a host of Japanese firms attracted to India by the prospect of the country's huge consumer markets as a five-year-old program of economic reforms gathers momentum.

Since 1991, more than 70 Japanese companies have established manufacturing bases in India, spreading into areas like chemicals and communications. Many more are looking to invest.

"Nearly 100 trade and industry delegations have visited India from Japan between last November and March 1996," said Koichi Kobayashi, Director-General of the Japan External Trade Organization in Bombay.

"Almost 250 others have made individual forays."

Japanese investment in India has almost quadrupled since 1994, from an initial trickle because of economic troubles in Japan around the time India began reforms, officials said.

Japan now ranks third among foreign investors in India, after the United States and Britain.

Iran-Pakistan Economic, Industrial Ties Discussed

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN - Pakistan's Minister of Industries Chaudhary Abdulsattar told Iran's Ambassador to Islamabad Mohammad-Mehdi Akhoondzadeh in Islamabad Sunday that his government looked forward to a better involvement of the private sector in Iran and Pakistan with the economic cooperation between the two countries.

The Iranian ambassador offered the Pakistani minister an outlook of the role of Iran's private sector in the economic life of the coutry and added that the private enterprises in Iran would look forward to contributing to the various national development projects in Pakistan, IRNA reported.

The Pakistani Minister of Industries is to visit Tehran during the upcoming international trade exhibition in Tehran later in the year.

Iran Present in Agriculture Conference in Cairo

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN - A group of Iranian agricultural and irrigation engineers who were in Cairo for the Sixteenth International Conference on Irrigation and Agricultural Drainage and the 48th international assembly of its executive council September 15-21 returned to Tehran Sunday.

They included members of the academy from Iranian universities in Oroumiyeh and Shiraz, as well as experts from the Iranian Ministry of Energy, and Plan and Budget Organization, IRNA reported.

In the elections in Cairo for three assistant secretary generals of the executive council, representatives from the Netherlands, Iran, Italy and Germany got the highest number of votes, with Doctor Javad Farhoudi from Iran being elected as one of the assistants.

Doctor Farhoudi has also been elected as Chairman of the Asian Water Crisis Committee for seven years. The committee is to study water crisis in Asia and offer solutions for adoption after the year 2,000. The Asian water crisis committee is to have its first assembly in Tehran with members from Iran, Syria, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Uzbekistan, India and Pakistan.

The committee is to select more members from among Asian countries later on.

UK "Squeezing World's Poorest Countries"

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN - Britain is squeezing money out of the world's poorest countries by demanding levels of debt repayments that far outweigh new loans or aid, it has emerged in London, IRNA reported.

According to research carried out by the European network on debt and development, obtained by the *Guardian* newspaper, the UK has been a net recipient of cash from the Third World since 1981.

Only the U.S. had a longer record of taking more cash from the developing world than it gives out, the first Country-by-Country Survey of lender nations found in its survey, which is due to be published this Friday.

The disclosure, which undermines the British government's claim to be at the forefront of a campaign to help Third World debtor nations, comes as representatives of the richest countries meet to discuss initiatives to reduce the debt burden of the Third World.

Ukraine Hopes for Economic Growth in 1997

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN - Ukraine has good chances of not only halting production decline, but also reversing it to make the year 1997 a turning point of its economic reform, a high-ranking official said.

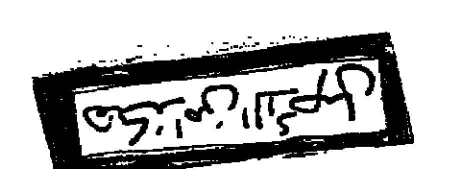
In 1997, we will have a real opportunity not only to stop economic slump, but also slightly increase production. There are all grounds to say that the year 1997 will be a turning point in the country's economy, Ukrainian Prime Minister Pavel Lazarenko said, as quoted by an IRNA-ITAR-TASS dispatch.

In an interview with the newspaper *Mvseukrainskiye Vedomosti* on Saturday, Lazarenko said that the government has already worked out a program of action for 1997 and will submit it to the parliament shortly.

FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATES

The following table shows the foreign exchange rates in rials as released by the Central Bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran on Monday, September 23, 1996.

COUNTRY	UNIT	Floating Rates BUY	Floating Rates SELL	Export Rates BUY	Export Rates SELL
Australia	dollar	1,382	1,390	2,373	2,385
Austria	schilling	164	165	281	283
Belgium	(100)francs	5,599	5,631	9,612	9,660
Canada	dollar	1,278	1,285	2,193	2,204
Denmark	krone	300	302	514	517
France	franc	340	342	584	587
Germany	mark	1,152	1,159	1,978	1,988
Holland	guilder	1,028	1,034	1,764	1,773
Italy	(100)liras	115	116	197	198
Japan	(100)yen	1,592	1,601	2,734	2,747
Sweden	krone	264	266	454	456
UAE	dirham	476	479	818	820
UK	pound	2,714	2,730	4,660	4,683
U.S.	dollar	1,750	1,755	3,000	3,015



Sports Summary

Tehran Times Service

AUTO

ESTORIL, Portugal: Canadian Jacques Villeneuve scored a dramatic victory in Sunday's Portuguese Grand Prix, denying his British Williams-Renault teammate Damon Hill the chance of sealing the World Drivers' Championship. Villeneuve overtook race leader Hill after a quick pitstop with 20 of the 70 laps of the Estoril circuit remaining, and then pulled away for his fourth win of the season.

Hill, who finished second, will go into the final race of the season in Japan on October 13 holding a nine-point lead over former Indycar champion Villeneuve, who is in his first season in Formula One. The Canadian driver finished the race in 1hr 40min 22.915 secs, 19.966secs ahead of Hill. Two-time world champion Michael Schumacher of Germany was third in his Ferrari, ahead of Frenchman Jean Alesi in a Benetton-Renault. Eddie Irvine of Ireland was fifth in a Ferrari with Gerhard Berger of Austria sixth in a Benetton-Renault.

SOCCER

PARIS: George Weah hauled AC Milan out of its mini crisis on Sunday by scoring the match winner in a morale-boosting 2-1 victory at Bologna while Parma stayed top of the Serie A on goal difference after beating Reggiana 3-2. European champion Juventus and Inter Milan both stayed level-pegging with Parma on seven points — Juventus needing two goals in the last 10 minutes to earn a 2-1 win at newly promoted Perugia while Inter drew 1-1 at home against Lazio.

In Spain, Brazilian striker Ronaldo kept Barcelona snapping at the heel of leader Betis by scoring twice at the Nou Camp as the Catalan club snatched a 3-2 win over Real Sociedad. And Ronaldo's compatriot Leonardo also found the net twice in France to help Paris St. Germain to an impressive 4-0 home win over Lens and keep it three points clear of rival Bastia which beat newly promoted Caen 4-2..

Fortuna Dusseldorf stunned previously unbeaten German leader VFB Stuttgart 2-0 on Saturday — thanks to two goals in the last seven minutes from Russian striker Sergei Yuran. The defeat left Bayern Munich, still unbeaten, on top of the table after a 1-0 home win over SC Karlsruhe.

LONDON: Tottenham manager Gerry Francis vowed to step up his search for new players after his English premiership side crashed to a shock 2-1 home defeat to unfancied Leicester on Sunday. Ian Marshall scored his first goal since his transfer from Ipswich to give Leicester a dramatic victory. Leicester had gone clear through Steve Claridge in the first-half. Tottenham equalized from the spot through Clive Wilson.

LONDON: Arsene Wenger made a flying visit to troubled Arsenal on Sunday and made his first major decision by appointing Pat Rice as his number two. The Frenchman, who officially takes over on September 30, confirmed he will be on the plane for Wednesday's crucial UEFA Cup tie at Borussia Moenchengladbach.

BRATISLAVA: Slovakia hammered visiting Malta 6-0 in Sunday's European Group 6 World Cup qualifying clash here Sunday.

GOLF

ENDICOTT, New York: Fred Funk birdied the first playoff hole Sunday to defeat Pete Jordan and capture the rain-shortened one million-dollar B.C. Open Golf Tournament. The final round was canceled because of rain, having Funk and Jordan, the overnight coleaders, to wait out the weather for an chance to start the playoff. Funk, who earned 180,000 dollars for his fourth career victory, moved to 24th on the money list. He is trying to maintain a place in the top 30 in order to qualify for the tour championship.

LOCH LOMOND, Scotland: Thomas Bjorn, who is in his rookie season, became the first Dane to win a European Tour event when he landed the Loch Lomond world invitational title on Sunday. The 25-year-old Dane, who is the 13th first-time winner in the European tour this year, shot a fourth round 70 for a 72-hole seven-under-par 277. He came in one stroke clear of Frenchman Jean van de Velde (71). Australian Robert Allenby (70) was third on 281 while Colin Montgomerie, bidding to win in his native Scotland for the first time, finished joint fourth with England's Jonathan Lomas on 282. Only seven players finished with sub-par totals. Allenby's third place finish was marred when he had to be rushed to hospital with a badly bruised right ankle after tripping as he left the course.

Chepstow, Wales: America retained the Solheim Cup after the form of Europe's women golfers collapsed dramatically in the final-day singles. Trailing 7-9 overnight, the United States fell three points down when Annika Sorenstam beat Pat Bradley two and one in the top match. But even at that stage it did not look good for Mickey Walker's team — no fewer than nine of the other 11 were losing out on the course. World number one Laura Davies, Europe's star over the first two days, lost to Michelle McGann three and two — and those following fell like a pack of cards. European hopes were ended when Kelly Robbins won the final hole off Alison Nicholas to get the half-point the Americans needed.

France Claws Its Way Back to Face Sweden in Final

PARIS — France, which had looked to have lost its chance of reaching the Davis Cup final when it lost both of the opening singles against Italy on Friday, clawed its way back and completed a 3-2 triumph in the Beaulieu Stadium in Nantes.

It will now travel to Malmo on November 29 to face five-time champion Sweden which eliminated the Czech Republic in Prague 4-1.

"This was a magnificent win," said French Captain Yannick Noah after leading jubilant on-court celebrations with players and team officials after the victory.

"The team spirit was first class and nobody talked of defeat even after losing the opening singles. But we made serious mistakes and we should have done a lot better. We were not certain of coming through until the very last point."

After the victory of Guy Forget and Guillaume Raoux in Saturday's doubles, Cedric Pioline and Arnaud Boetsch, cheered on by an excited and partisan crowd, produced inspired performances.

Pioline leveled the tie at 2-2 with an impressive 6-3, 2-6, 6-2, 6-4 win over Renzo Furlan, and then Boetsch clinchbed the winning point by defeating Andrea Gaudenzi 6-4, 6-2, 7-6 (10/8).

Gaudenzi, who played with his right wrist tightly strapped, could not believe his eyes when Australian umpire Wayne McKewen, without waiting for the line-judge, called a deep forehand 'out' at 7-7 in the tense, third-set tie-break.

Italian Captain Adriano Panatta, a former French Open champion, was so incensed, he violently shook the umpire's chair and was lucky to escape a warning.

Noah said of the incident: "If that had happened to me I dread to think what I would have done to the umpire."

The victory put France through to the final for the first time since 1991 when it defeated the United States for the trophy in Lyon.

Sweden, leading 2-1 overnight, clinched its tenth appearance in the final of the competition when Thomas Enqvist came back after trailing by two sets to one to beat Daniel Vacek 6-3, 6-7 (3/7), 4-6, 7-5, 6-3.

"I don't think I've ever played a match quite like that," he said after his exciting win.

"I think we both played really well. I had to take a lot of risks on my serve and stay aggressive to try to curtail the rallies. The longer the ball stayed in play the more chance he seemed to have to win the point.

Sweden's victory sets the scene for what could be an emotional farewell for 30-year-old former world number one Stefan Edberg.

Edberg, who is to retire at the end of the season and who won the dead rubber against hitting partner Petr Korda 4-6, 6-2, 7-5, will be appearing in his seventh final is he is selected for Malmo.

Austria lost its place in the elite world group to Brazil when it refused to play the reverse singles of its stormy qualifying round clash in Sao Paulo following the disqualification of its number one Thomas Muster.

The International Tennis Federation (ITF) confirmed that the tie had been awarded to Brazil by a 4-1 scoreline.

Muster, clearly upset by the constant jeering and behavior of the Brazilian fans, stalked off court during Saturday's doubles and was promptly disqualified from playing his Sunday singles.

The Austrian federation promptly withdrew its team which was trailing 2-1 overall.

Muster, who was playing alongside Udo Plamberger against Gustavo Kuerten and Jaime Oncins when he staged his walk-off, claimed that he had been threatened, spat upon and distracted during the match.

The 1995 French Open champion and former world number one, was still seething with anger 24 hours after his disqualification.

"I shall never play here again," he said, adding: "Brazil should be punished. If this is Davis Cup tennis then I want no part of it. The people here are animals.

"During three and a half hours we were insulted, spat upon and objects were thrown at us," he said.

His coach and team Captain Ronald Leitgeb backed up Muster's stance.

"We tried to stay calm. But the behavior towards us and to Thomas was unacceptable. Thomas feared for his personal safety, and there were reasons."

Leitgeb, who also demanded that action be taken against Brazil, went on: "Brazil is on the black list, but the ITF (International Tennis Federation) has apparently not learned from past lessons. Someone has to eventually do something."

Portugal's match referee, Antonio Flores Marques, described Austrian complaints about crowd behavior as "unjustifiable", but the ITF has called for him to give them a full report, and also asked for comments from their observer Thomas Hallberg, and from the Brazilian and Austrian federations.

The matter will now be discussed by the Davis Cup Committee at its meeting in London on October 7.

In other world group qualifying matches, Mexico, Australia, Romania, Russia, the Netherlands, Spain and Switzerland all won their ties while Austria will be joined in Group 1 by Argentina, Croatia, Belgium, New Zealand, Hungary, Denmark and Morocco.

Wimbledon's 72-year-old number one court was given an emotional send-off as Britain marked the passing of the historic venue with an emphatic Davis Cup victory over Egypt.

Britain's Canadian-born Greg Rusedski played the final game on the famous showcourt, which is due to be demolished later this year in Wimbledon's massive rebuilding program. He beat Amr Ghoneim 6-4, 6-2 to complete a comprehensive 5-0 Euro-Africa zone victory over the visitors.

Earlier, in a rain-interrupted clash, Tim Henman beat Tamer el Sawy 6-7 (4/7), 6-2, 6-2.

In a brief farewell ceremony at the end of Rusedski's match, the net from number one court was handed over to the Wimbledon Museum for posterity. (AFP)



BARCELONA, Spain (September 22): Brazil's soccer star Giovanni Silva (R) of Barcelona is challenged by Real Sociedad's defender Agustin Aranzabal during their Spanish first league match at Nou Camp Stadium. Barcelona won 3-2. (AFP PHOTO)

Speed Auto Racing Held in Azadi Track

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — On the occasion of 8 Years Sacred Defense Week, the Automobile and Motor Cycling Federation held a round of speed auto racing attended by over 10,000 fans in the track of Azadi Sports Complex, said the secretary of the federation.

He added that the drivers competed with each other at ten classes including 1300 cc, Renault Standard, Pride, 1500 cc, 1600 cc, 1800 cc, 2000 cc, 2000 GT, BMW-Alfa Romeo-Lancia (BAL), and Open. Some results are as follows:

1300 cc Class:
1. Kia Borhan
2. Amir Ahmad Panjeh Ali
3. Hossein Attarha

Pride Class:
1. Babak Rayzan
2. Boyuk Jadiri
3. Khashayar Fesharaki

Renault Standard:
1. Abbas Foghani
2. Afshin Ja'farzadeh
3. Hossein Nabavi

1500 cc Class:
1. Majid Haj Esfandiari
2. Abdollah Ranji
3. Alireza Karimzadeh

1600 cc Class:
1. Alireza Amini
2. S. Alireza Mirfarsi
3. Shervin Pooshin

2000 cc Class:
1. Armen Alexanderian
2. Boyuk Jadiri
3. Faramarz Bayat

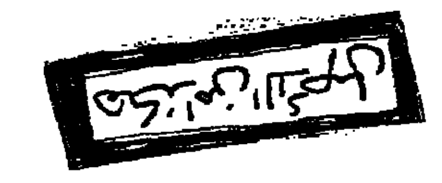
BAL Class:
1. Boyuk Jadiri
2. Borzu Dehghani Azar
3. Faramarz Bayat

1800 cc Class:
1. Alireza Mirfarsi
2. Kia Borhan
3. Moeen E'temadi

2000 GT Class:
1. Amid Compani
2. Alireza Tabatabaei
3. Armen Alexanderian

Open Class:
1. Amid Compani
2. Alireza Tabatabaei





Arab League Hails Qatari Moves to Slow Down Ties With Israel

CAIRO — The Arab League on Monday hailed Qatar's decision to delay opening a trade office in Israel in protest at the right-wing government's hardline policies on the peace process.

"The league welcomes favorably this position," said league deputy secretary general for Palestinian affairs, Said Kamal, in statements carried by the Egyptian news agency MENA.

"This constitutes an important step within the framework of the common and united Arab position towards the irresponsible policies of the Netanyahu government aimed at undermining the peace process and expanding settlements."

Qatari Foreign Minister Hamad ibn Jassem ibn Jabr al-Thani said last week that his country was slowing down normalization of ties with Israel and "has delayed opening a (trade) office in Israel."

He said there has been "a certain half-heartedness on our part" since Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu came to power at the head of a rightist-centrist coalition led by his Likud Party in May.

Doha threatened in July to "reevaluate" its policy of normalization and said that it did not plan to open a commercial representation office in Israel until after Netanyahu "commits himself to pursuing the peace process." (AFP)

President Approves Implementation of 170 Development Projects

TEHRAN — President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani has endorsed the implementation of 170 development projects in the deprived areas of Fars, Lorestan, East Azarbaijan and Tehran provinces with the total budget of Rls.10.5 billion, it was announced here on Monday.

The Public Relations Department of the Presidential Office said that the development projects included building roads, supply of water and electricity, building health centers and sports stadiums as well as provision of welfare for tribe people and contribution to the Housing Foundation of the Islamic Revolution, in the four provinces. (IRNA)

(Contd from Pg. 1)

VELAYATI...

Iranian Foreign Minister added Iran at the same time will redouble its efforts to achieve a nuclear weapons free world.

As for Iran's policy towards the current situation in northern Iraq, Velayati said that the policy of Iran has always been founded on the maintenance of security of our border areas and the prevention of terrorist infiltrations, coupled with consistent emphasis on and respect for Iraq's sovereignty and territorial integrity as well as prevention of tension and conflict between various Iraqi Kurdish factions.

The full text of Velayati's address will be printed today.

(Contd from Pg. 1)

ISRAEL'S...

its army is ready to carry out whatever tasks it must'," Mordechai told the Israeli newspaper *Yediot Aharonot* in reaction to recent Syrian troop redeployments in Lebanon.

Shazli, who joined the growing chorus of Egyptian officials taking aim at Israel, responded: "This language of dinosaurs by the Israeli government goes against Israel's obligations towards its partners in the peace process, including Syria, and causes revulsion."

"I think that all parties involved in the peace process, notably the co-sponsors (the United States and Russia) must share my sentiment," he said.

Shazli added that he did not believe the Likud-led government of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu was "aware of the dangers which could come from the failure of the peace process or that this government honestly represented the views of the majority of Israelis, who we are sure want peace."

"Unfortunately, the Likud government is capable of sabotaging the strategic interests of Israel firstly, and all the countries in the region," he said. (AFP)

(Contd from Pg. 1)

TEHRAN...

Tehran has consistently denied any role in the killing of Iranian opposition activists.

Velayati said Iran would not consider breaking diplomatic relations with Germany if it is displeased by the verdict.

But he said if the Berlin judge convicts Tehran, then Iranian courts could rule on acts of the German government. For example, he said, Iran could seek damages from Germany for the victims of Iraqi poison gas during the Iran-Iraq war in the 1980s.

"Germany helped Baghdad develop chemical weapons," Velayati said. "Thousands of Iranians are still suffering the consequences."

In 1988, U.S. intelligence revealed German companies helped build a poison gas plant in Libya and supplied machinery to Iraq to make chemical arms used to kill thousands of Kurds. (AP)

(Contd from Pg. 1)

IRAN...

losing the game.

The Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps (IRGC) commander stressed that if the slightest problem breaks out for us or the slightest pressure is exerted on us, we will disregard all restrictions and become engaged in conflict with the U.S. throughout the Persian Gulf up to the Sea of Oman, making them repent their deeds."

Rezaei noted that without doubt if Americans were sure that they could wage a war with us in a limited framework, and readily bring us under their control, they would have so far done so. "But they well know that if they did so, we would extend the war, making them repent."

Major General Rezaei pointed to Israeli threats to the Islamic Republic of Iran and said for the past five or six years Israel has been confronting the Islamic Republic of Iran.

He added that if Israel wants to take action against us, it will use its air force, and in response we will not restrict ourselves to the air. We will decide where and how to respond to Israel.

"What is certain", Rezaei said confidently, "we have prepared ourselves for these threats and any confrontation."

The major general ruled out the possibility of an all-out war in the region, saying that none of the regional countries are now ready for a big war. Given the economic, political and social situation in the region, the outbreak of such a war is unlikely.

The major general pointed out that claims that if the American hegemony is destroyed, it will lead to chaos, such a thing would occur only if a powerful force existed which would invade beyond its borders, but that today there is no such power around us.

At present no fresh force exists with the capacity to travel many kilometers from its country, entering another country, Rezaei added.

The major general said that the Iraqi aggression upon Kuwait had its roots in U.S. intervention in the region in an attempt to fill the Soviet vacuum. The invasion of Kuwait was an exception, Rezaei stressed.

Major general Rezaei remarked that if the U.S. does not intervene in the region and the regional countries become united, no incident will occur in the region.

Commenting on recent developments in northern Iraq, Rezaei said that the U.S. has become involved in a mess in Iraq. On the one hand, the U.S. cannot come to terms with Saddam; on the other hand, it does not want to contribute to Islamic reawakening in regional countries.

Commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps further said that the only option for American officials is to eliminate Saddam decisively, something which, in my opinion, is unlikely to be done by Mr. Clinton and his friends. Rezaei said that U.S. actions in northern Iraq were naive.

They had not conducted a military evaluation of their work, and Arab states did not give the U.S. permission for greater maneuver on the assumption that such a move would contribute to the tendency toward reawakening of Islam.

Major General Rezaei noted that in the recent operation initiated by the U.S. against Iraq, France, China and Russia separated themselves from the U.S., isolating it. He added that the present U.S. role as gendarme has a low international public opinion.

Elsewhere in his talk, the IRGC commander described Turkey as a Muslim country, neighboring the Islamic Republic of Iran, and that certain elements affiliated with foreign powers in every nook and cranny in Turkey are not content with good Tehran-Ankara relations.

The top commander said Turkish representatives have inspected all the regions which forged documents indicated were the scenes of activity of the PKK in Iran and found that there was no base for this group inside Iran.

Rezaei hinted at the IRGC's participation in reconstruction efforts and described IRGC's role as praiseworthy and separate from its military activities.

He added that with the aim of increasing the technical capability of the forces and their optimal use in development projects, we have rushed to the help of the government in its reconstruction efforts, accepting giant projects.

The IRGC commander pointed out that, "Our technical capability has increased manifold. We have reached self-sufficiency in different areas such as railways, industry, road construction, defense technology and reconstruction of military equipment."

Rezaei noted that reconstruction in IRGC is pursued at special headquarters reserved for reconstruction purposes, having no connection to the IRGC's military organization.

"Our army men are engaged in their assigned work and the individuals participating in the reconstruction headquarters are busy with their own work, Commander Rezaei said.

(Contd from Pg. 1)

FIFTY...

"We had really horrible conditions yesterday because of the rain. We have recovered 50 bodies so far," she told AFP.

Last week, experts were working in the mud trying to carefully disentangle a two metre-high pile of decomposed limbs.

The grave is in a cornfield not far from a main road, shielded by some trees. It is believed to contain the bodies of Muslim men killed after the fall of the UN-declared safe area of Srebrenica in July 1995.

Asked how many bodies were in the grave, Vollen said "There are probably less than 100, but there's no final figure."

In testimony at the International War Crimes Tribunal in the Hague, Drazen Erdemovic, a Croat who served in the Bosnian Serb Army, said that he had been part of a firing squad which shot line after line of men there.

The digging was commissioned by the Hague tribunal and involves experts from the Boston-based non-governmental organization, physicians for human rights.

The grave is the fourth Srebrenica site to be excavated. Some 154 bodies were recovered from a mass grave in Cerska, 33 from Nova Kasaba and at least 58 from Lazete.

Closer to Srebrenica, Bosnian government experts were working independently Monday to recover bodies left in the open on the Kravice hillside near the village of Donji Mratinci. (AFP)

(Contd from Pg. 1)

KUWAIT...

sile strikes against Iraq on September 3-4, received 3,000 U.S. troop reinforcements in addition to 1,200 training here since August.

The U.S. strikes were in retaliation for Iraq's incursion into a northern Kurdish safe haven on August 31.

The United States also sent eight F-117 Stealth bombers and 18 F-16 fighter bombers to Kuwait and deployed a battery of Patriot anti-missile missiles.

Iraq denounced Kuwait's decision to accept the warplanes as a declaration of war but later said it was not threatening the emirate it occupied for seven months before U.S.-led forces expelled it in February 1991.

After Iran, Aoun will visit Turkey, Lebanon and Libya, KUNA said. Kuwaiti envoys made similar visits to other Arab countries last week as well as to Russia. (AFP)

(Contd from Pg. 1)

NEW...

fensive against the Taleban on the highway towards Jalalabad, capital of the Taleban-held Nangarhar Province.

Jalalabad, the first major Afghan city from the Pakistan border, was taken by the Taleban earlier this month, along with Mehtarlam, capital of neighboring Laghman Province.

Taleban sources confirmed Sunday's attack by the government forces on the frontline east of the government stronghold at Sarobi, 70 kilometers (43 miles) east of Kabul.

The Afghan Islamic Press (AIP), a private information service maintaining wireless links with sources in the area, said "severe fighting" had been going on since early Monday morning.

AIP quoted an unidentified Taleban official as saying two militia soldiers had been killed and six others injured.

The official told AIP the militia had repulsed the government forces from the positions they established in Sunday's offensive.

Meanwhile according to another report Taleban militia claimed its forces had killed 90 Kabul government troops on Monday's clashes.

Their bodies "are lying on the battlefield" near Sarobi, a government stronghold 70 kilometers (43 miles) east of Kabul, a Taleban official said by phone from Jalalabad, a major city in eastern Afghanistan.

No independent confirmation of the claim was available while Taleban sources put their own losses in the fighting very low despite reports of severe fighting involving use of heavy weapons by both sides.

(Contd from Pg. 1)

ZYUGANOV...

sin's fitness to rule. Asked if he wanted Yeltsin to resign, he said: "Yes".

President Boris Yeltsin was pressured Monday to resolve a growing power vacuum by either having heart bypass surgery or resigning, as new fears arose over the difficulties of the planned operation.

The ailing 65-year-old president, in hospital for an 11th day of pre-surgery tests, should resign if doctors decide he is too unhealthy for the bypass and must work at a reduced rate as a result, said the speaker of the Russian Lower House of Parliament.

In this case "he should himself ask to resign," Gennady Seleznov told Interfax news agency.

"Russia doesn't have this kind of situation that allows (the president) to reduce his level of work," Seleznev said.

Renat Akchurin, the lead surgeon, said the operation, originally announced for the end of September, may be postponed for as long as two months.

"This should be decided within one and a half to two months time," Akchurin said in an interview late Sunday with the commercial NTV Russian television channel.

Asked if the operation might be cancelled, Akchurin replied: "It is possible."

He said Yeltsin, who is at the Central Clinical Hospital, himself was putting pressure on doctors to get on with the surgery.

The date and strategy of the operation will be taken Wednesday by the medical council of doctors treating Yeltsin. Pioneering U.S. heart surgeon Michael Debakey, who will act as a consultant at the council arrived in Moscow on Monday.

Worries that Yeltsin might not be able to stand the surgery were sparked Saturday when Akchurin told a U.S. television channel that the president, who had two heart attacks last year, suffered yet another attack just before his reelection victory July 3 this year.

Media reports have suggested that Yeltsin, believed to have a drinking problem, has additional ailments in other organs, such as his liver, complicating the heart operation.

Akchurin stressed that what is usually routine bypass surgery will not be "a walk in the park" for Yeltsin.

Yeltsin broke with the traditional secrecy over Russian leaders' health when he announced at the start of September that he would undergo surgery to cure his ischemia, a disease constricting blood flow to the heart.

But instead of clearing the air at the start of his new four-year term in office, Yeltsin's hospitalisation has only fueled a power vacuum created by his frequent absences due to the illness.

Even if he undergoes surgery, he will need at least three months to recover, Russian media reports said, raising the prospect that Yeltsin will remain secluded until well into 1997.

Under the constitution, Yeltsin would be replaced by Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin in case of incapacity or death. However, it is not stated how incapacity is defined.

The Kremlin has announced that the nuclear button briefcase will be handed over to Chernomyrdin only during the operation itself, with Yeltsin immediately resuming command after the anaesthetic. (AFP)

(Contd from Pg. 1)

LAST...

"They're now already out on the training range," Nickerson said, adding that the new arrivals were checking their equipment in desert camps before joining live-fire exercises.

U.S. military officers in Kuwait had said about 3,000 U.S. troops were due to arrive here before the first batch flew in Thursday.

The troops from the U.S. Army's first cavalry division are joining 1,200 troops who have been training since August in the oil-rich emirate which Iraq occupied in 1990-1991.

With another several hundred support staff looking after U.S. military equipment at Camp Doha, there are now between 4,500 and 5,000 U.S. soldiers in Kuwait, Nickerson said.

The first cavalry division now numbers 4,200 troops, enough for a heavy brigade which can train with the hundreds of tanks and other armored vehicles stockpiled at Camp Doha under an agreement with Kuwait after the 1991 Persian Gulf war. (AFP)



WEATHER

The I.R. of Iran Meteorological Organization announced today's weather as follows:

Forecast for Tehran: Max. temp. 27°C, Min. temp. 15°C

Clear to half cloudy with dust and wind

Warmest Point:
Zabol 39°C

Coldest Point:
Firoozkouh 5°C

Some cities of the world

Cities	Max. °C	Cities	Max. °C
Riyadh	38	Vienna	11
Istanbul	–	Moscow	–
Rome	21	Madrid	18
Athens	29	Abu Dhabi	35
London	–	Karachi	–
Paris	–	New Delhi	35
Frankfurt	12	Kuwait	37



ZANJAN, Zanjan Province (Sept.22): Children greet President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani upon his arrival to Zanjan Airport.



ZANJAN, Zanjan Province (Sept.22): President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani inspects an exhibition held on the sideline of the 6th Congress on Prayers. *(Photos by M. Takin)*

Greece, Iran Spearhead Diplomatic Contacts With Ex-Yugoslavia

ATHENS -- The foreign ministers of Greece and Iran plan to meet their counterparts from Bosnia and the rump Yugoslavia in New York next week, a reliable Greek source said Monday.

On the initiative of Athens and Tehran, the four will meet on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly, which opens Tuesday in New York, he said.

"After having brought together this summer Zagreb and Belgrade, Greece wishes to take similar initiatives for Belgrade and Sarajevo, which have extremely good relations with Tehran," the source said.

The Greek and Iranian foreign ministers also plan to meet their Armenian counterpart in New York, the source said. (AFP)

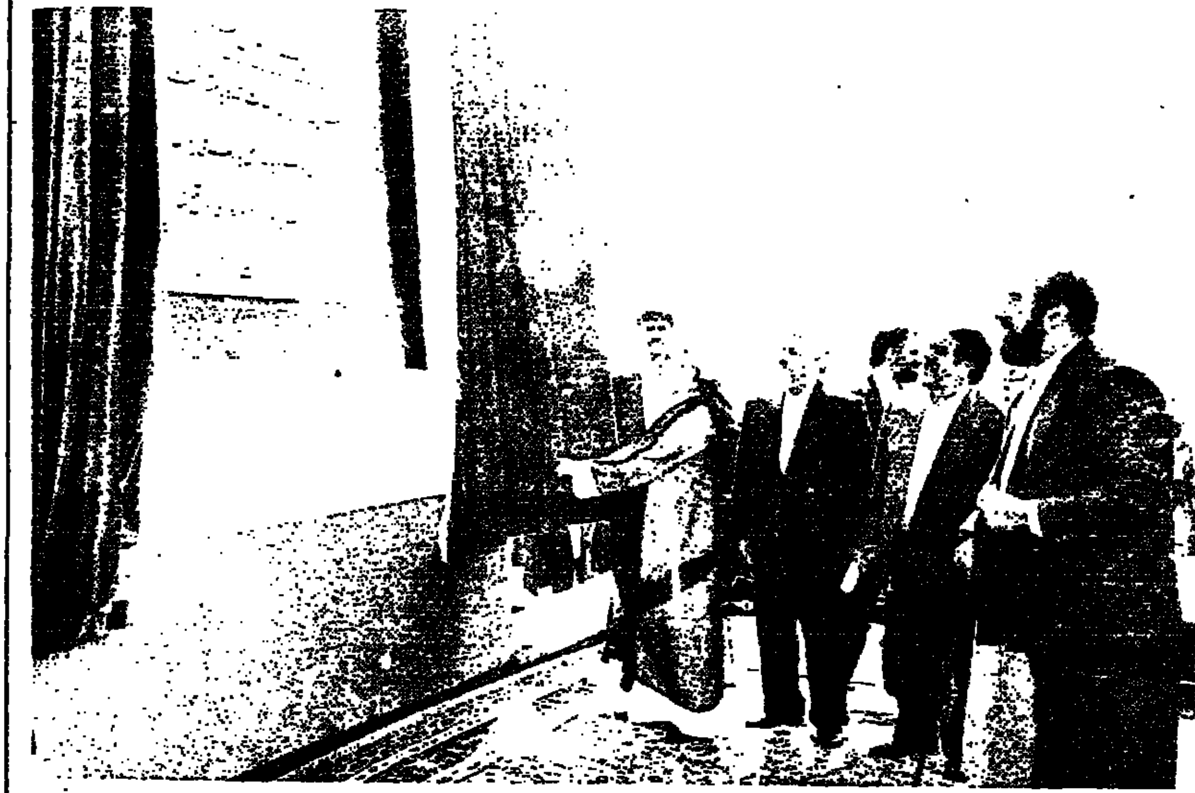
Top Kashmiri Leader Escapes Second Bid on Life

JAMMU, India -- Kashmir's top politician, Farooq Abdullah, escaped a second assasination attempt at an election rally in the northern state's Doda district, the police here said Monday.

A militant tried to hurl a grenade at him, they said, adding that the explosion in the disputed region left one person dead and eleven others injured.

Monday's attack was the second bid on Abdullah's life this month. Militants tried to kill him on September 12 as he addressed his supporters in Pulwama district south of the state's summer capital, Srinagar.

Abdullah, a former chief minister of the disputed state, was about to address an election rally in Kishtwar district when the attack took place. *(AFP)*



ZANJAN, Zanjan Province (Sept.22): President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani inaugurates the 189-km Qazvin Zanjan Freeway.



ZANJAN, Zanjan Province (Sept.22): President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani inaugurates Zanjan's cellular phone system and 162 other postal and telecommunications projects. *(Photos by M. Takin)*

87 Die as Fresh Fighting Rages in Sri Lanka

COLOMBO -- Fighting raged in north-eastern Sri Lanka on Monday as troops mounted a fresh offensive to capture the political headquarters of the Tamil Tiger rebels, leaving 87 dead, officials said.

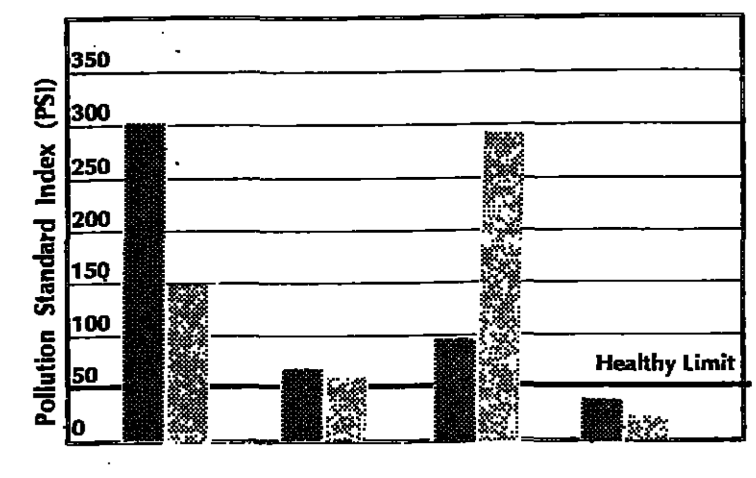
Hundreds of troops backed by tanks, artillery and aircraft advanced three kilometres (almost two miles) into territory held by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), the Defence Ministry said.

The Defence Ministry said the operation was aimed at "dominating" an area ahead of the newly captured town of Paranthan, just six kilometres (four miles) north of Kilinochchi where the Tigers now have their political base.

"Domination of areas well ahead of Paranthan defences will continue," the ministry said, placing rebel casualties at 200 killed or wounded.

Military officials said Monday that 22 soldiers, including an officer, were killed and 58 wounded in overnight fighting, while ground troops estimated at least 60 Tigers were killed. *(AFP)*

Last 48 Hours Air Quality in Tehran



Sunday 22/09/96 ■ Monday 23/09/96

Typhoon Violet Dwindles Leaving 10 Dead or Missing

TOKYO -- A powerful typhoon was dwindling into a tropical depression in the northwestern Pacific Monday after sideswiping Japan's east coast overnight, leaving 10 people dead or missing and 43 others injured.

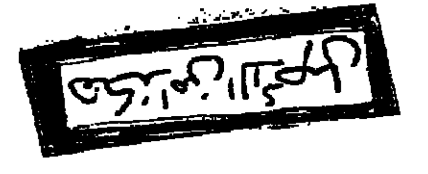
Typhoon Violet also caused at least 207 landslides while damaging roads at 47 locations, the national police agency said. Nine houses were destroyed and 75 houses damaged.

The storm system was located some 210 kilometers (130 miles) southeast of Nemuro on Japan's northernmost main island of Hokkaido at 0600 GMT as it moved northeast at 30 kilometers (19 miles) per hour, the meteorological agency said.

Still packing winds of up to 90 kilometers (56 miles) per hour, Violet was expected to be downgraded into a tropical depression near the southern Kurile Islands by late Monday, the agency said.

The typhoon flooded Tokyo streets with 24.1 centimetres (9.6 inches) of rain, the third highest rainfall for a single day since 1876, the agency said. It was even heavier in Chiba prefecture to the east with 25 centimetres (10 inches) recorded.

The death toll rose to seven as Violet moved along the eastern seaboard of the main island of Honshu toward Hokkaido with winds of up to 217 kilometers (135 miles) an hour. *(AFP)*



Mexico Rebel Violence Said to Threaten Sea Turtles

MEXICO CITY – Guerrilla violence in southern Mexico has led indirectly to the looting of up to 1 million eggs of an endangered sea turtle in Oaxaca state, an environmental group said.

Sailors at a navy base at Huatulco once charged with guarding a beach where the Golfina Sea turtles lay their eggs have since been redeployed elsewhere because of the emergence of the Popular Revolutionary Army (EPR), the Group of 100 Environmental Organization said.

As a result, Mexicans have looted more than 10,000 turtle nests containing an estimated 800,000 to 1 million eggs, the group of 100 said. (Reuter)

Teenage Runaway Found in Germany

LONDON – A British teenager who flew off to Malaysia last year with his father's passport and credit card has been sent home from Germany after running away a second time.

Peter Kerry, 15, hit the headlines in February last year when he ran away after a family argument, to be found six days later after a worldwide search.

This time he had his own passport, a little money and a change of clothes. Last seen on September 15 when he left home on his bicycle to do a paper delivery round, he was picked up at the weekend near Frankfurt, still on his bicycle... riding down an autobahn. (AFP)

Astronaut: Goodbye Space Station, Laboratory, Treadmill



KENNEDY SPACE CENTER, FL, United States (Sept. 22): U.S. Astronaut Shannon Lucid (L) shares a meal with her former Russian Mir-22 crewmates Engineer Aleksandr Kaleri (C) and Commander Valeri Korzun (R) aboard the U.S. Space Shuttle Atlantis. Lucid bid farewell to Kaleri and Korzun when the Atlantis and her crew left the Russian Station September 23 to return to Earth September 26. (AFP PHOTO)

SPACE CENTER, Houston — Astronaut Shannon Lucid finally said goodbye Monday to the orbital laboratory she loved, the treadmill she couldn't stand and life aboard Russia's Mir Space Station.

"I'm really happy and I also feel just a little sad," Lucid said a few hours before her shuttle Atlantis crewmates were to seal its hatch to undock from Mir Monday night.

"This has been my home for six months and I've had a great time here, but obviously I'm very, very anxious to go back to my real home, back in Houston, Texas, with my family."

Lucid, a 53-year-old biochemist and mother of three grown children, has set a U.S. space endurance record and a world record for a woman. If the shuttle lands as scheduled on Thursday, she will have spent 188 days in orbit, 48 more than planned because of mechanical and weather problems that kept Atlantis grounded.

Astronaut John Blaha, a 54-year-old retired air force colonel and five-time space flier, replaced Lucid on Mir after Atlantis docked with the station last week. He will live on the orbiting outpost for four months.

In a farewell ceremony Monday, Lucid hugged Blaha and his two Russian cosmonaut crewmates, who arrived on Mir a month ago. Two other cosmonauts stayed on the space station during Lucid's first five months.

The Atlantis crew presented the Russians with wrist watches set to Houston time and a space shuttle-shaped piece of chocolate.

"Of all the things that we've done here in space as a joint crew, probably telling what time it is has been the most exciting for all of us," shuttle commander William Readdy joked.

Lucid said she liked running a laboratory during her half-year aloft. "I'll miss working in a laboratory. I really enjoyed working in a laboratory again and to be real honest, I enjoyed being sort of my own boss and making decisions and I just really enjoyed the working atmosphere that I had," she said.

One thing she won't miss is the exercise equipment she used daily. The Russians, experts at long spaceflight, insist on frequent, intense workouts to slow the inevitable muscle and bone deterioration in weightlessness. (AP)

Algerian Opposition Rejects Offer to Join Government

ALGIERS – Algeria's main opposition parties on Monday rejected an offer by President Liamine Zeroual to take part in a coalition government and enter the country's transitional legislature.

Zeroual said at the weekend that consultations were underway to enlarge the government and the country's transitional legislature, the official APS news agency reported.

"Proposals have been made to this effect to political parties," he told a press conference Saturday.

Zeroual did not specifically name any parties, but said the enlargement could include those that boycotted last week's National Political Conference which set out a framework for political pluralism in Algeria. (AFP)

Ter-Petrosian Leads Presidential Race

YEREVAN, Armenia – President Levon Ter-Petrosian took a big lead over three challengers Monday in Armenia's presidential election and was in strong position to capture a first-round victory with a majority, preliminary results showed.

With votes from eight of 11 regions counted, the central election commission said Ter-Petrosian had 56 percent to 37 percent for former Prime Minister Vazgen Manukian. Sergei Badalian of the Communist Party of Armenia was a distant third with 7 percent and Ashot Manucharian, the president's former national security adviser, had less than 1 percent.

Even before votes from the capital Yerevan and two other districts were captured, the president's ruling Armenian Nationwide Movement claimed victory.

The main opposition National-Democratic Union, without citing figures, claimed earlier that its candidate Manukian was leading.

Both sides accused each other of voting irregularities.

If none of the candidates gets more than 50 percent of the vote, a second round will be held with the top two vote-winners from the first round. (AP)

Greek PM Simitis Starts Work to Form New Cabinet

ATHENS — Greek Socialist Premier Costas Simitis, who won a fresh four-year mandate in elections, begins putting together his new cabinet on Monday and officials said major ministries could change hands.

"Simitis took a big risk and won. The election win is wide and gives him a free hand for sweeping changes. We will see this in his new cabinet (expected to be announced) Tuesday," former Simitis cabinet member told Reuters.

The defense, foreign affairs and finance ministries were up for grabs while a number of younger Socialist deputies would be moved up to junior posts, officials said.

Simitis had a strong win over the opposition Conservatives, with around 41.7 percent of the vote in Sunday's election which will give him about 163 deputies in the 300-seat Parliament.

Socialists went wild in the streets of Athens, throwing an all-night party with horns sounding, fireworks exploding and revellers dancing in the streets.

Newspapers said Education Minister George Papandreou, the son of late Socialist Party founder Andreas Papandreou, or Industry Minister Vasso Papandreou (no relation) could replace Theodoros Pangalos at the Foreign Ministry.

Pangalos has angered Greece's allies with rude comments and has failed to win strong support within the EU for Greece in its disputes with neighbouring Turkey. (Reuter)

Austrian President in Intensive Care

KLESTIL

VIENNA, Austria -- President Thomas Klestil, who canceled a trip to Bavaria last week because of illness, is in intensive care in Vienna's main hospital, suffering from an unusual and grave lung inflammation, his office said Sunday.

Klestil has been sick for a week. But Sunday's statement was the first to indicate that he is seriously ill, and to specify that he is suffering from "a grave, aggressive and atypical form of lung inflammation."

Austrian state television said Klestil had conducted official business from his hospital bed.

In keeping with Austrian custom, doctors at Vienna's General Hospital have refused to answer queries about the president's health. (AP)



Qatar Seeks Freeze on Money Allegedly Taken by Ex-Ruler

DOHA, Qatar — Qatar has been asking Western governments to freeze billions of dollars allegedly stashed away by the ex-ruler before he was overthrown by his son last year, the Justice Ministry said Monday.

Qatar's former ruler, Sheik Khalifa bin Hamad al Thani was ousted by his son Sheik Hamad bin Khalifa al Thani in a bloodless palace coup in June 1995.

Qatar has accused the deposed leader and a top aide of transferring billions in state funds to private accounts abroad.

"The government has requested legal assistance from a number of foreign countries where money was transferred illegally," the Justice Ministry statement said.

The request covers bank accounts in the United States, United Kingdom, France, Switzerland, Germany, and Luxembourg, the statement said.

Swiss Bank accounts which Sheik Khalifa had access to were frozen in June, but the latest request covers additional funds as well.

The value of the funds involved was not disclosed. But official sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, estimate it to be as high as $12 billion. (AP)

IRA Suspect Dies After Police Shootout

LONDON — British police said a suspected Irish guerrilla arrested during raids on Monday had died in hospital following a shootout.

The man was one of six people arrested as police seized explosives, foiling what they said was an imminent Irish Republican Army (IRA) attack in Britain.

Police said the man who died had been seriously injured in a shootout with officers during the arrests in west London. There were no further details.

The swoop took place early on Monday in London and another area of southern England.

"A very large quantity of explosives was recovered, as well as firearms and bomb-making equipment," said a police statement. "The operation has undoubtedly frustrated a serious imminent IRA terrorist attack on the British mainland involving the deployment of a large vehicle bomb likely to have caused grave loss of life and massive disruption." (Reuter)

INTERNATIONAL BRIEFS



ALGIERS - Four people, two of them children, were killed and several people injured in two weekend blasts in troubled Algeria.

KANGNUNG, South Korea - One civilian was shot dead and two South Korean soldiers were seriously wounded Monday in gun battles between trackers and fugitives from a wrecked North Korean submarine.

WASHINGTON - Publisher John Kennedy JR., son of the late U.S. President John F. Kennedy, has married Carolyn Bessette in a weekend ceremony on a Georgia island.

BOGOTA - Clashes with the army left at least 16 rebels dead this weekend after the armed forces were placed on alert in the face of growing guerrilla attacks.

BANGKOK - A Thai Airways international airbus with 160 people on board was forced to make an emergency landing on Sunday night after a fire warning signal was triggered.

SAN'A - At least five people were killed and 20 wounded Sunday when two clans in central Yemen clashed using machine guns, missiles and hand grenades, security sources said.

JIDDAH - Four Nigerian men were beheaded Sunday in Mecca, the Interior Ministry said in a statement. They were found guilty of robbing a gold store, but did not say when or where the crime was committed.

MOSCOW - A crippling energy strike in the Russian Far East entered its second week Monday with strike leaders warning they would not back down until months of unpaid wages were delivered.

Protest Boats Turned Back From Islands by Japanese

TAIPEI – Japanese coastguard and police vessels on Monday forced back a flotilla of Taiwanese protest boats attempting to reach the disputed Diaoyu-Senkaku islands in the east China Sea.

Seventeen Japanese vessels blockaded the islands during a two hour standoff. No serious incidents were reported but protesters and Taiwanese officals accused Japan of over-reacting to the flotilla.

The protesters said they got within 70 meters (230 feet) of one island. But the seven boats were surrounded and turned back. Ching Jei-Shou, a leader of the protest, told AFP by phone from the scene.

Ching said the Taiwanese fishing boats breached the blockade three times but were chased each time by Japanese patrols.

When two rival boats came alongside each other, a Japanese crewman tried to grab one Taiwanese protester, but he was scared back by another protester carrying a harpoon, Ching said.

Nine Taiwanese and Hong Kong politicians, eight protesters and 71 journalists from Taiwan and Hong Kong were on the boats that left for the islands Sunday to protest Japan's claim of the archipelago. (AFP)

Encephalitis Claims 115 Lives in Nepal

KATHMANDU – An encephalitis epidemic in Nepal's lowland tropical Terai region has claimed 115 lives since April, the state-run daily *Gorkhapatra* reported Monday.

"Since April this year, some 624 people have been affected...of whom 115 have already died," the newspaper said, quoting the Health Ministry's central health service department. (AFP)





TEHRAN TIMES

Runaway Found in Germany

PM Simitis Starts Work ... Form New Cabinet

Austrian Preside... in Intensive Ca...

Khavaran Cultural Center Takes Major Strides Toward Cultural Ends



Q: Would you please explain about the establishment history of Khavaran Cultural Center?

A: Mrs. Noori, the managing director of Khavaran Cultural Center, replied, "The design and construction operations of Khavaran Cultural Center as a cultural complex were started in 1993 and the center was inaugurated by President Hashemi Rafsanjani on January 30, 1994.

"Khavaran Cultural Center is a big complex which has 83,000 square meters area and 24,000 square meters built area consisting different sections in order to render its cultural and art services to the general public."

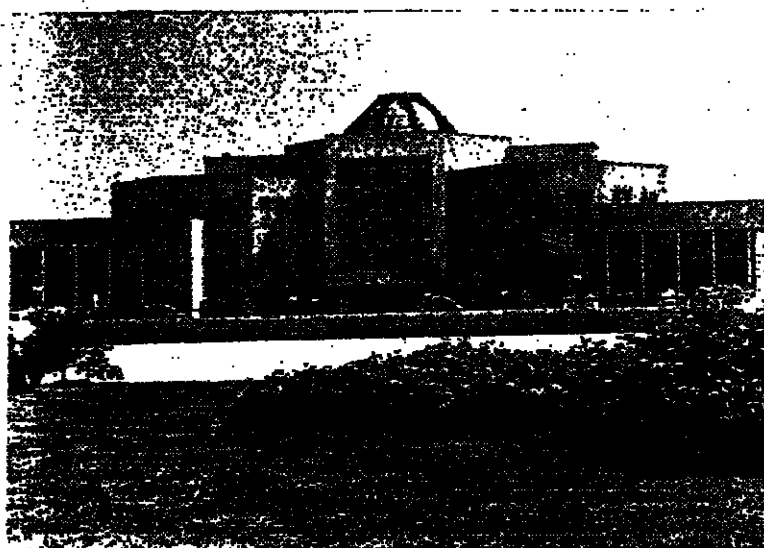
She added that Khavaran Cultural Center thanks to a social idea was set up to achieve some objectives such as rendering various cultural services to the society, promoting the level of the people's culture, filling their leisure time. In this way, the center can materialize some parts of the Grand Leader's decree saying, "Everyone should campaign against cultural assault." It is obvious that the cultural center intends to launch programs for the families to achieve these objectives.

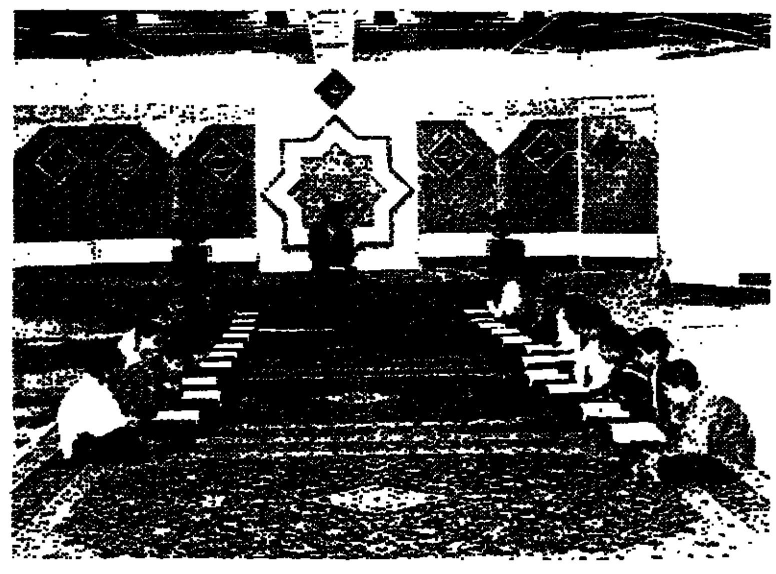
Khavaran Cultural Center has different sectors such as Children and Young Adults Section which is active regarding the fields of arts, education, sports, recreation, etc. Child and Youth Adult House is the other section of the center which enjoys a big library suitable for this age group and the children can get good services from this section. The cultural center also enjoys another section called Children Play Hall which broadcasts different plays and films. There are some workshops for the children that are ready to entertain them to training activities every day.

Among other activities of Khavaran Cultural Center, one is allocated to the youth out of which the youth cultural-science associations can be introduced. The cultural center has 5 associations which have attracted many young people and they give excellent services according to their interests and talents. These associations hold different seminars and gatherings; arrange visits to various science, cultural and arts centers; and plan tours in order to create the spirit of participation in the youth and make them feel self-confidence and behave in a way that is acceptable to the society.

The cultural center's library having 20,000 books is open from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. and the young adults and youth interested in studying are welcome.

The center's Section of Exhibitions including Sciences and Technics Section aims at transferring scientific concepts to the people in particular the schoolchildren and university students through various scientific elements along with recreation and entertainment.

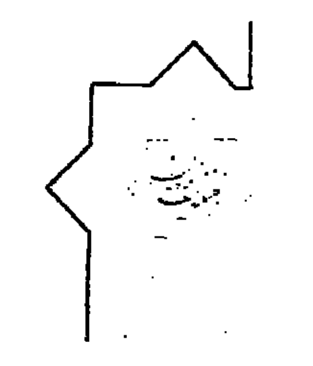




The Arts Section of Khavaran Cultural Center offers entertaining programs to the general public as performing puppet shows, theaters and playing films. The arts training classes and workshops have been created on the above-mentioned grounds to teach the interested young people the know-how of the skills.

The cultural center has allocated another section to the women. The Women's Association in accordance with their interests has some programs to meet their needs.

The section which is the most significant one of the center is Abode of Qoran Section aiming to promote and develop the Qoranic culture among the general public.



Totally, Khavaran Cultural Center offers around 15 different kinds of activities simultaneously from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

The cultural center intends to construct a big theater with 1,700-people capacity in northwest and also set up a sports complex enjoying various sporting facilities including 4 swimming pools of which phases 1 and 2 are underway.

The Project of Line 114 or The Call of Qoran is one of the main activities of Abode of Qoran Section. Since the cultural center intends to promote the Qoranic culture in our Islamic society, it has designed and implemented a project called 'The Call of Qoran' through cooperation of Municipality of Region 15 and some organizations. Those who are interested in Qoran can dial 114 and hear your selected verse and sura recited by two reciters. The project is usable by means of 36 telephone lines throughout Tehran, 35 cities of the country as well as 7 overseas states. So far, a considerable amount of money has been spent to make the project operational and mechanize the system equipped with 36 telephone lines for hearing the Qoranic verses.



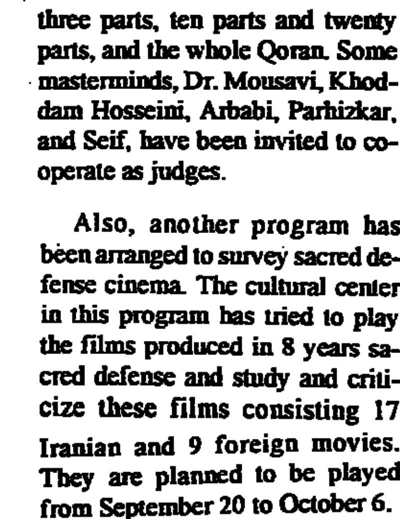
Mrs. Noori
Managing Director of
Khavaran Cultural Center

Q: Would you explain about your Qoran self-training plan?

A: As I said before, the Section of Abode of Qoran is active in different fields including holding various classes for the children, young adults, youth and adults to learn Qoran, holding Qoran competitions entitled 'Recite Qoran and Receive a Gift'. Two main activities of this section are 'The Call of Qoran Project' and a project for producing 39 cassettes for training the interested to memorize 5 Qoran parts. These cassettes have been produced through cooperation of two masterminds named Parhizkar and Seif and everyone even the children can use them.

Q: Does Khavaran Cultural Center have special programs on '8 Years Sacred Defense' like the previous years?

A: The Sacred Defense Week is very valuable to us because it reminds us the memoirs of 8 years of sacred defense. Hence, the cultural center intends to make every effort to offer different programs in order to keep the memoirs of 8 years sacred defense alive. So, the cultural center has formed a headquarter to arrange the programs on Sacred Defense Week. One of these programs in this week is Qoran competitions for combatants, ex-POWs and war disabled under the name of 'Fath Mobin Competitions' to be held in three parts of 'recitation, memorization and chorus recitation'. The memorization competitions will be held in three levels: The first three parts, ten parts and twenty parts, and the whole Qoran. Some masterminds, Dr. Mousavi, Khoddam Hosseini, Arbabi, Parhizkar, and Seif, have been invited to cooperate as judges.



Also, another program has been arranged to survey sacred defense cinema. The cultural center in this program has tried to play the films produced in 8 years sacred defense and study and criticize these films consisting 17 Iranian and 9 foreign movies. They are planned to be played from September 20 to October 6.

The Sacred Defense Photo Exhibition is the other activity of Khavaran Cultural Center. The photos of Velayat Military Exercise are also displayed in this exhibition between September 19 and October 6.

The cultural center's play workshop has produced a theater on sacred defense which has been performed since September 15. There are other programs such as traditional songs program sung by well-known singers of the country as well as some workshops, different stands including shooting, painting and photography stands for the children and young adults.



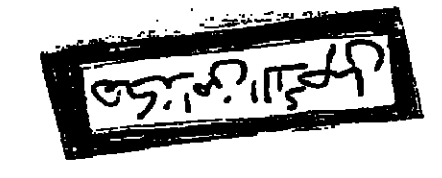
The cultural center has made some workshops to create an atmosphere like the fronts' atmosphere. The youth can work in these workshops and get familiar with the war era.

Through cooperation of Arts and Literature Unit of Islamic Propagation Organization's Arts Bureau, Khavaran Cultural Center has another program dubbed 'Nights of Memoirs' in which the combatants who have actively participated in the fronts, will state their memoirs in order to keep them alive. Some outstanding poets will be also invited to take part in this program.

Q: Has Khavaran Cultural Center improved when compared to last year?

A: Since the cultural center is an active complex which relies too much on the youth, it always tries to improve and get better than before. According to the statistics, the number of people who come to Khavaran Cultural Center are increasing day by day which reveals the quality growth of the cultural center's programs.





Alaskan Gardeners Mad Over Giant Vegetables

PALMER, Alaska -- John Evans is one serious gardener.

Five years ago he moved to Alaska, but not for any of the typical reasons -- the snow-topped mountains, the abundant wildlife or the miles (kilometers) of wilderness.

Instead, he came north dreaming of what big things he and 20 hours of daily sun could create in a half-acre (0.2-hectare) garden.

Evans lives to cultivate vegetables of unusual size. Like a 71-pound (32-kilogram) Swiss chard, a 45-pound (20-kilogram) red cabbage and a 35-bunch of broccoli, all world records.

"It's always been a bit of an obsession," he said.

Plenty of Alaskans share his passion in a land where summer is brief but intense, as a visitor to the Alaska state fair soon learns. Walking around the fair's veggie display is like cruising a roadside farm stand, except that the produce looks like it was grown on steroids.

There are stalks of rhubarb like vaulting poles, broccoli tall and broad enough to shade a family picnic, and beets bigger than basketballs.

Alaska's competitive gardeners harvest their crops mostly for fun, though there is some profit out there for those growing the unofficial state vegetable -- green cabbage.

Since 1941, the cabbage showdown -- based strictly on size -- has been held annually at the state fair in Palmer, a town 40 miles (60 kilometers) north of Anchorage that was founded some 60 years ago as a new deal agriculture project.

The first winning cabbage weighed in at 23 pounds (10.4 kilograms). The current record is 98 pounds (44.4 kilograms), set in 1990 by Lesley Dinkel, a member of the family that has dominated the contest for years. The world record stands at 124 pounds (56.2 kilograms).

In past years, the biggest Alaska cabbages earned $50 and momentary statewide fame for its grower. This year things got more interesting when the purse was boosted to $4,000. Half went to the winner, who was, of course, a Dinkel.

Gene S. Dinkel grabbed the big prize with a sprawling leafy head that tipped the scales at 90 pounds (41 kilograms). Second place, worth $1,000, went to his uncle, Gene A. Dinkel, at 82 pounds (37 kilograms).

The megacabbage exhibit was one of the fair's biggest attractions. After waiting in a long queue, devotees gaped and gasped and grabbed snapshots of the elite entrants.

"That's a lot of coleslaw," said one impressed visitor.

Just what it takes to grow a monumental cabbage is open to debate.

Gene A. Dinkel, patriarch of the clan and perennial winner, insists that it's not much more than digging a hole in the ground, throwing in some seeds and letting the sun do its thing. So far as care and feeding goes, he offers up little but the most basic guidance.

"While they're growing, you don't touch them," he said. "If you squeeze them, you break the ribs and they split." Split cabbages are ineligible for the fair.

Dinkel said members of his family are gardening hobbyists, while Evans -- who holds 20 Alaska size records but shuns cabbage as being too popular -- approaches the field as a self-proclaimed "nutty professor."

He does extensive botanical research and experimentation and mentions such concepts as biocatalysts and hormone treatments. He works to fine-tune his plants to stand up to disease and excessive sun. He would like to start his own seed company for megavegetables.

Rocco Moschetti, a federal farm agent in Palmer, said vegetables in Alaska are in general slightly bigger than produced in lower 48 because of the longer summer days. But not all vegetables are monster size.

The competitive gardeners have their techniques, Moschetti said. They use special seeds, start their plants indoors during the early spring, and feed and fertilize them intensely.

It's also necessary to protect their giant vegetables. "Lots of people have lost their prize cabbages to moose that find their way into the yard to have a meal," he said.

A few weeks ago Evans held an open house at his garden in Palmer, and the tourists thronged.

"It was like a rock concert," he said. "The ladies were screaming when they saw the giant vegetables still on the vine."

Dinkel said he's often gotten a similar response of amazement from people who don't see king-size crops every day.

"You can talk about it all you want," Dinkel said, "but until they see it, they don't realize just how big big is." (AP)

9,000-Year-Old Human Remains Offer Insights, Controversy

YAKIMA, Washington -- He was a tall, lanky man with a jutting nose, prominent chin and good teeth who survived at least two close calls before dying of an infection that likely stemmed from old wounds.

More than 9,000 years later, the discovery of his skeleton in a city park has started a battle between anthropologists who want to study him and American Indians who claim him as an ancestor and want him immediately reburied.

> *"When I found out, I just kind of took a deep breath and went, 'Oh my God, is this going to be complicated!'" he said.*

Anthropologist Jim Chatters excavated the skeleton after it was discovered July 28 in Columbia Park on the banks of the Columbia River in Kennewick, 50 miles (80 kilometers) southeast of here.

Radio-carbon dating by the University of California at Riverside showed that the bones -- the oldest complete skeleton found in the Northwest -- are from sometime between 7265 BC and 7535 BC, Chatters said.

"When I found out, I just kind of took a deep breath and went, 'Oh my God, is this going to be complicated!'" he said.

He was right.

The Colville Confederated Tribes, Nez Perce Tribe, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla and the Yakama Indian Nation all claim the remains as ancestral -- representative of aboriginal bands that roamed the region. Three of the tribes want the remains reburied without further study. The Colville indicate a willingness to have the skeleton studied.

Chatters, however, does not believe the long-dead man is of American Indian ancestry.

Scientists determine race by comparing measurements at several different points of the skull. The skull has Caucasian features, he said, not those characteristic of American Indians.

"Because it's old and from around here, they claim it as an ancestor," Chatters said, frustration evident in his voice. "But its physical characteristics don't resemble them."

The Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act of 1990, under which the tribes are seeking reburial of the remains, "wasn't meant to apply to ones this ancient -- when they can shed light on the origin of people in the New World as a whole," he said.

"It just doesn't seem appropriate to me for one group to dictate what people can learn from something that ancient."

Chatters, who has worked as a consultant since he left a job as cultural resource manager for Battelle Pacific Northwest National Laboratories, wants the skeleton to remain in the hands of scientists.

The bones, which cannot be photographed in deference to tribal sensitivities, are in federal custody as negotiations continue with the tribes. Chatters expects the matter will be resolved in court.

"I say that with resignation, not anticipation," he said.

Much can be learned from the bones of a man who walked the region millennium ago, Chatters said in a recent interview.

"It pertains to the peopling of the new world. It pertains to understanding the evolution of our species and the movement of our species around the globe," he said.

He has already learned quite a bit.

The man was between 45 and 55 when he died. He stood 5-foot-9 (1.75 meters), tall for his time. His diet was mainly soft -- likely a lot of meat and fish. He had little arthritis in his back and leg joints, indicating he had not carried many heavy loads.

His face was dominated by his nose.

"It's the biggest nose I ever saw," Chatters said. "It comes virtually straight out."

Most interesting, however, are the scars from old battles.

An inch-wide (2.5-centimeter-wide) stone spearhead is embedded in the man's hip. And he suffered a chest wound that broke his ribs in at least seven places and left his left arm withered.

"Either he fell on something or got whacked on by a large foot or horn or something," Chatters said. "He was a tough, tough guy."

The infection that killed him was likely related to the spear-point wound, he said.

"You can see that on the outer surface of the skull he had a systemic infection that caused him problems at several times," Chatters said.

The skeleton was discovered by two local men, Will Thomas, 21, and Dave Deacey, 20, as they waded in the Columbia during hydroplane races.

Floods earlier this year may have churned the river enough to unearth the skeleton, Chatters speculated.

Armand Minthorn, a Umatilla tribal board member from Pendleton, Oregon, recently told the *Seattle Times* newspaper he believed the bones should be allowed to rest undisturbed.

"How would you feel if we came into your cemetery and dug up your ancestors?" he asked.

> *"How would you feel if we came into your cemetery and dug up your ancestors?"*

No problem, said David Murray, a social anthropologist who taught at Brandeis University until two years ago and now runs a Washington-based research foundation.

"Any time you find an ancient European speciman, you do the same thing: Dig it up and get it as quickly as possible into the laboratory," Murray said.

"There are remarkable things you can derive about the quality of life, disease susceptibility, diet," he said.

"Who's to say that's not all of our heritage? It's the human story."

But not all scientists share that view.

Lucille Lewis Johnson, professor of anthropology at Vassar College, said the tribes' wishes should be respected.

"If the groups that are interested in having him reburied are local natives who have a history of occupation of that area, even if one cannot directly say that this individual was one of their ancestors, they in a sense have a presumptive relationship with him," Johnson said.

"If they are determined he be reburied, then it seems to me that he should be." (AP)

Australians Say Art Find May Rewrite History

MELBOURNE -- Australian archaeologists have found aboriginal stone tools and rock art they claim date back more than 116,000 years and could rewrite conventional theories of prehistory.

Research team leader Richard Fullagar said the stone chips found at a dig in Australia's remote northwest showed humans lived there between 116,000 and 176,000 years ago, around the time of the emergence of modern human form in Africa.

"The initial samples were taken four to five years ago now, and we were so shocked with the results that we have been trying to go over them and trying to disprove these things, and we can't do that," Fullagar said in a radio interview.

The artefacts dramatically push back the earliest human occupation of Australia and roughly coincide with the emergence of homo sapiens in Africa, Fullagar and the Sydney *Morning Herald* newspaper said.

"This almost doubles the previous estimates of the age of aboriginal occupation on the continent," the research team said in a short statement issued recently.

The discoveries, at a site dubbed "Australia's Stonehenge", also include rock engravings dating back 58,000 to 75,000 years, he said.

"There is also some ochre (commonly used in aboriginal art) at the slightly higher level than the stone artefacts. Up at the level which is around about 58,000 to 75,000 years ago, there is an (engraved) sandstone slab," Fullagar said.

The age of the engravings was determined by dating the sediments in which they were found, he said. "They are perhaps the oldest rock art anywhere in the world," Fullagar said. (AFP)

Swedish Moose Hunt: Crossing Social Boundaries

STOCKHOLM -- Each year from early September until late October, thousands of Swedish hunters rise at the crack of dawn and head out into the woods in search of the king of the Nordic wilderness, the moose, in a tradition that crosses all social boundaries.

From the north to the south, the country's outdoorsmen go wild for the few weeks a year when they are able to hunt the mighty animal. In many parts of Sweden, businesses shut down during the period and record numbers of employees call in "sick" to be able to participate in the tradition that is as much social as sport.

"The social positions change places. One is ranked by one's ability as a hunter, regardless of one's position in society," says Bo Lindvall, spokesman for the Swedish Hunting Federation.

Because unlike in many other countries, where hunting is for the elite, the Swedish moose hunt is as popular with blue-collar workers as with nobility.

Although most of the hunters will return home without having fired a single shot, few of them will be disappointed: Much of the enjoyment is in the collective and social spirit, and the thrill is in the chase. In other words, this is not a sport for Rambos.

The hunt "is characterized by rigorous safety, strong ethics and morals. One doesn't shoot at anything and everything," says hunter Lars Aake Helgesson, the president of one of Sweden's largest forestry groups, Stora.

"The moose is a large and powerful animal. Just to meet one in the forest is an experience," adds Lindvall.

There are some 270,000 moose hunters in Sweden, or 4.4 percent of the adult population. Ninety-seven percent of them are men, and it is very much a Swedish hobby -- only about a thousand of the hunters are foreigners.

Originally a sport for rural folk, the moose hunt has over the years developed into a popular pastime for city dwellers. It has become a way for people to escape the stress and rigors of city life and relax and socialize in the fresh air, much like golf but without the latter's snobbish reputation.

Sweden's moose population is estimated at about 300,000. According to the Swedish hunting federation, some 120,000 moose can be shot this year without endangering the population. In 1995, a total of 91,140 moose were killed, according to the federation.

The Swedish financial weekly *Veckans Affaerer* recently estimated that the moose hunt industry generates about 1.5 billion kronor ($227 million) annually, including the purchase of equipment, licences, clothing, dogs, travel costs and so on.

But moose meat -- traditional Swedish fare -- represents just a small portion of that. Only some 10 percent, or 700-800 tons, actually reaches consumers, due to the low price of 35-45 kronor ($4 to $6) offered per kilogram (two pounds). The rest ends up in the freezers of neighbors, friends and relatives.

In addition to the hobby aspect, the hunt also serves to keep the population in check. Numerous traffic accidents and damage to forests are primary concerns of too large a stock.

Topping the list of Sweden's most famous moose hunting buffs is King Carl XVI Gustaf. He is the director of H.R.H. Hunting Club, whose 200 members, including nobles, friends of the king and top company executives, meet seven or eight times a year for hunting expeditions. (AFP)

Italian, Spanish Police Smash Major Drug Ring

ROME -- Italian police said they have smashed a drug smuggling ring and confiscated a record four tons of hashish in an operation carried out with Spanish police.

Italian finance police said their nine-month investigation dubbed "Querida" (Spanish for "loved one") ended recently with the arrest of three Italians and four Spaniards in the Spanish port city of Barcelona.

"It was a textbook operation which involved significant team work," police chief Maria Rosaria Pollice told a news conference in Rome at which Spanish and Italian officials explained the operation.

They said they confiscated a record four tons of hashish with a street value of some 16 billion lire ($10.5 million) as the drugs were being unloaded from a yacht to a fishing boat in the port of Barcelona.

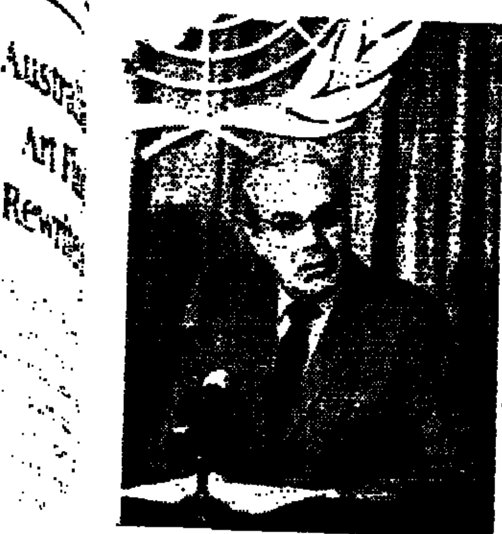
The ring had been tracked by police from the beginning of their boat journey at Fiumicino near Rome all the way to the coast of Morocco, where they picked up the hashish, and finally to Barcelona, police said. (Reuter)



TEHRAN TIMES

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Special Issue on Sacred Defense Week



Former Secretary General: "Iraq Is an Aggressor"

Tehran Times Service

On 26 November 1991, the Secretary-General reported on the progress of implementation of resolution 598 (1987) since March 1. Further efforts, he noted, had been made difficult due mainly to the complex situation prevailing in the area following the outbreak of hostilities in Iraq and Kuwait (see below).

The Secretary-General described the situation along the border between Iran and Iraq as one of relative unrest, drawing attention to the long lists of alleged cease-fire violations submitted by both and circulated as Security Council documents. UNOSGI at Baghdad confirmed 31 out of 37 alleged cease-fire violations that it had investigated at Iraq's request; UNOSGI at Tehran confirmed 8 out of 11 allegations investigated. The majority of allegations related to unauthorized presence on the border or in the area of separation rather than to any firing. It was the Secretary-General's hope that the recent release of 421 POWs by Iran signalled the beginning of the last phase of the repatriation process, whose completion was long overdue.

As to the resolution's call for measures to enhance security and stability in the Persian Gulf region, the Secretary-General had started a process of consultations that began in September with his visit to Iran and Saudi Arabia and continued in New York with the region's Foreign Ministers and the head of State of Bahrain during the General Assembly session. The Secretary-General suggested that the idea of a declaration, to include basic principles of good-neighbourly relations and other practical arrangements might be pursued under United Nations auspices.

According to a further report of 9 December, the Secretary-General had requested the two Governments, in identical letters dated August 14 for their views on the question of an inquiry into responsibility for the Iran-Iraq conflict, as called for by resolution 598 (1987). He also consulted separately with independent experts so as to gain the fullest understanding of the subject. On the basis of replies received from Iraq on August 26 and from Iran on 15 September, as well as on all other relevant information since the beginning of the conflict, he made the following observations.

The Iran-Iraq war was begun in contravention of international law, the area of violation being the illegal use of force and disregard for a Member State's territorial integrity. The violation entailing responsibility for the conflict was determined to be Iraq's armed attack against Iran on September 22 1980 and its continuous occupation of Iranian territory during the conflict — actions unjustifiable under the Charter of the United Nations and the principles of international law and morality, despite Iran's encroachment on Iraqi territory before the attack. Of the numerous violations of humanitarian law committed during the war, many had been documented by IGRC and the United Nations, particularly by expert teams dispatched to civilian areas subjected to chemical attacks.

Stating that the events of the Iran-Iraq war and the positions of the parties were a matter of record and public knowledge, the Secretary-General was of the opinion that it served no useful purpose to pursue the inquiry. In the interest of peace and in line with implementing resolution 598 (1987) as a comprehensive plan, he said it was imperative to move on with the settlement process. What urgently needed tending was the careful construction of peaceful relations between the parties and of peace and security in the whole region.

Iraq, through its Ministry of Foreign Affairs, characterized the December 9 report as devoid of any legal value, reflecting only the Secretary-General's personal opinion. Based on what it called authenticated evidence, Iraq asserted that the action it took against Iran, as cited by the report, had been in response to a long series of attacks, threats and violations of Iraq's sovereignty, territorial integrity and internal security, begun in July 1980 by Iran in accordance with an openly declared plan to subject Iraq to Iran's authority.

Messenger of Resistance

Sacred Defense, Defense Industries and Reconstruction Day

MORADPOUR:

Cinema of War Is of Outstanding Position

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — Cinema of War enjoys an outstanding position among the people who are the basic assets of cinema, the war film director, Ahmad Moradpour, told the *Tehran Times*.

Speaking on the eve of the Sacred Defense Week, he stressed on Islamization of the cinema.

Moradpour said that Islamization of the cinema can be substantiated through application of Islamic concepts and contents, dissemination of Islamic customs, traditions and values as well as through making films with an Islamic form and appearance.

He stressed that in making war films, certain factors should be taken into consideration namely spiritual atmosphere which prevails over the society, the extent of the government financial support and the costs of the film.

During the 1980-88 imposed war our people suffered heavy material and spiritual losses and have borne all kinds of embargoes. Now in the reconstruction era people want to forget its appalling moments. Thus, it becomes difficult to talk about war films.

However, people will welcome a war film which is capable to establish good relations with its audiences, Moradpour said.

Unfortunately private sector is not willing to produce war films. Most of the war films are produced by governmental organs. Thus, as far as the private sector declines to contribute in making war films we will not witness a satisfactory work in the field.

Innovation, the way of conveying the message of the film and application of appropriate cinematic norms are the most important factors which will cause acceptability of every film especially war films.

As for attendance of Iranian films in the international scene, Moradpour said that Iranian films comparing those of other countries enjoy a very acceptable and favorable position in the international arena.

Regardless of the United States and several European countries, Iran is among the best film producers, he stressed.

The main problem which may cause other countries overlook Iran's successes in all the fields including the cinema is the U.S.-led anti-Iranian propaganda through which it wants to tarnish the face of the Islamic Revolution.

Organizations such as Farabi Cinema Foundation, Association of the Sacred Defense and the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance should render support for screening war films across the world, Moradpour said.

On the budget allocated to the war cinema, Moradpour said that some Rls. 10,000,000 has been allocated to the best scenarios — which will be awarded not in cash but in shape of certain facilities and equipments. Some Rls. 70,000,000 has been allocated to those scenarios ranking second.

The effective indicators of Sacred Defense films are the subject of the film, the problem of heros which are tangible and its recreational aspects, he said.

Showing the sacrifices and devotions of the Muslim combatants and martyrs' families during the sacred defense years, a war film will further motivate people to contribute



in construction era supporting the government in its construction drive.

He stressed that nation's resistance and support for the Islamic system, either in the frontiers or in cities, and their unity in defense brought victory to the country.

Now, in the construction era such aspirations should be created among people making them further contribute in the construction process.

(Tehran Times Service)

PART 3

Resolution 616 (1988)

Adopted by the Security Council at its 2821st meeting on 9 May 1988

The Security Council,

Having considered the letter dated 5 July 1988 from the Acting Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/19981),

Having heard the statement of the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati and the statement of the representative of the United States of America, Vice-President George Bush (see S/PV. 2818)

Deeply distressed that a civil aircraft of Iran Air -scheduled international flight 655- was destroyed in flight over the Strait of Hormuz by a missile fired from the United States warship USS Vincennes,

Stressing the need for a full explanation of the facts of the incident based upon impartial investigation,

Gravely disturbed at the increasing exacerbation of tension in the (Persian) Gulf region,

1. Expresses its deep distress at the downing of an Iranian civil aircraft by a missile fired from a United States warship and profound regret over the tragic loss of innocent lives;

2. Expressing its sincere condolences to the families of the victims of the tragic incident and to the peoples and governments of their countries of origin;

3. Welcomes the decision of the International Civil Aviation Organization, in response to the request of the Islamic Republic of Iran, "to institute an immediate fact-finding investigation to determine all relevant facts and technical aspects of the chain of events relating to the flight and destruction of the aircraft" and welcomes the announcement by the United States of America and by the Islamic Republic of Iran of their decisions to cooperate with the International Civil Aviation Organization investigation;

4. Urges all parties to the Chicago Convention of 1944 on International Civil Aviation to observe to the fullest extent, in all circumstances, the international rules and practices concerning the safety of civil aviation, in particular those of the annexes to that convention, in order to prevent the recurrence of incidents of the same nature.

5. Stresses the need for a full and rapid implementation of its resolution 598 (1987), as the only basis for a comprehensive, just, honorable and durable settlement of the conflict between Iran and Iraq, and reaffirms its support to the efforts of the Secretary General to implement that resolution, committing itself to work with him in the development of his implementation plan.

Resolution 619 (1988)



Adopted by the Security Council at its 2824th meeting on August 9, 1988

The Security Council,

Recalling its resolution 598 (1987),

1. Approves the report of the Secretary General contained in document S/20093 on the implementation of operative paragraph 2 of resolution 598 (1987) ;

2. Decides to set up immediately, under its authority, a United Nations Iran-Iraq Military Observer Group (UNIIMOG) and requests the Secretary General to take the necessary steps to this effect in accordance with his above-mentioned report;

3. Further decides that UNIIMOG shall be established for a period of six months, unless the council declares otherwise;

4. Requests the secretary general to keep the Security Council fully informed of further developments.

Resolution 620 (1988)

Adopted by the Security Council at its 2825th meeting on August 26, 1988

The Security Council,

Recalling its resolution 612 (1988),

Having considered the report of July 20 and 25 and August 19, 1988 (S/20060) and Add. 1, S/20063 and Add.1, S/20134) of the missions dispatched by the secretary general to investigate allegations of the use of chemical weapons in the conflict between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Iraq,

Deeply dismayed by the missions' conclusions that there had been continued use of chemical weapons in the conflict between Iran and Iraq and that such use against Iranians had become more intense and frequent,

Profoundly concerned by the danger of possible use of chemical weapons in the future,

Bearing in mind the current negotiations in the Conference on Disarmament on the complete and effective prohibition of the development, production and stockpiling of chemical weapons and on their destruction,

Determined to intensify its efforts to end all use of chemical weapons in violation of international obligations now and in the future,

1. Condemns resolutely the use of chemical weapons in the conflict between Iran and Iraq, in violation of obligation under the Protocol for the Prohibition of the Use of Asphyxiating, Poisonous or Other Gases, and of Bacteriological Methods of Warfare, signed at Geneva on June 17, 1925, and in defiance of its resolution 612 (1988);

2. Encourages the secretary general to carry out promptly investigations, in response to allegations brought to his attention by any member state concerning the possible use of chemical and bacteriological (biological) or toxin weapons that may constitute a violation of the 1925 Geneva Protocol or other relevant rules of customary international law, in order to ascertain the facts of the matter, and to report the results;

3. Calls upon all states to continue to apply, to establish or to strengthen strict control of the export of chemical products serving for the production of chemical weapons, in particular to parties to a conflict, when it is established or when there is substantial reason to believe that they have used chemical weapons in violation of international obligations;

4. Decides to consider immediately, taking into account the investigation of the secretary general, appropriate and effective measures in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, should there be any future use of chemical weapons in violation of international law, wherever and by whomever committed.

Resolution 685 (1991)

Adopted by the Security Council at its 2976th meeting on January 31, 1991.

The Security Council,

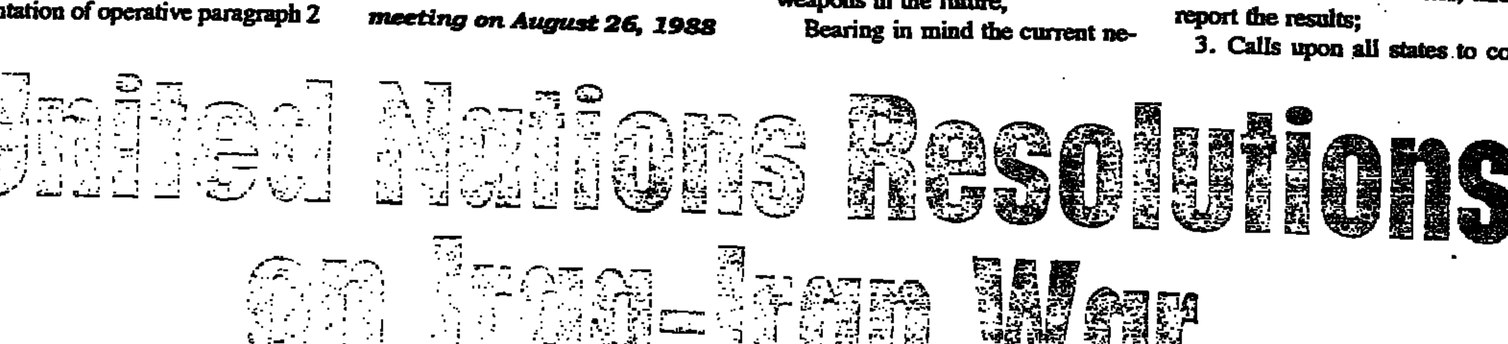
Recalling its resolutions 598 (1978) of July 20, 1987, 619 (1988) of August 9, 1988, 631 (1989) of February 8, 1989, 624 (1989) of September 29, 1989, 651 (1990) of March 29, 1990, 671 (1990) of September 27, 1990 and 676 (1990) of November 28, 1990,

Having considered the report of the secretary general on the United Nations Iran-Iraq Military Observer Group of January 28, 1991 (document S/22148), and taking note of the observations expressed therein,

1. Decides to extend the mandate of the United Nations Iran-Iraq Military Observer Group for a further period of one month, that is, until February 28, 1991, as recommended by the secretary-general;

2. Requests the secretary general to submit, during February 1991, as report on his further consultations with the parties about the future of the United Nations Iran-Iraq Military Observer Group together with his recommendations on this matter.

(To be cont...



Sequence of War Events

4th Day — September 25, 1980

Pressure Mounts from the Enemy as Iraqis Advance to the Southern Fronts

Events on the fourth day indicate that Iraqi efforts to occupy strategic areas in Iran led them deep into the southern region. The enemy brought in more armored equipment, moving in the direction of Abadan and Khorramshahr, with Bostan on the verge of collapse.

Inner regions witnessed the arrival of aggressive forces, particularly the cities of Qasr-e-Shirin and Sar Pol-e-Zahab. In the south-west, Piranshahr and Mahabad were under threat. The enemy's fighter planes on the third day shelled over 10 cities causing heavy material and human losses. In the course of the air raids several enemy planes were downed.

•*Political Implications:*

The Islamic Republic's officials widened their differences on the conduct and continuation of the war and the employment of forces. Bani Sadr stressed the use of the army and conventional operations, and labored to portray himself as the sole support of the army thereby strengthening his following inside the country. In contrast, the forces loyal to the late Imam Khomeini considered conventional warfare and methods to be insufficient, demanding revolutionary methods and a popular war to be waged against Iraq.

Iraq's planned strategy of a blitzkrieg capture of Tehran fell into pieces. The Iraqi regime had planned a three-day siege but it soon realized that it did not have the means nor the ability to accomplish its objectives in the short period envisaged. Entangled in a long-term war, it was dragged more and more in a costly struggle to obtain weapons from Russia and France. For this purpose Tariq Aziz was immediately dispatched to Moscow and then to France where he met with then French President Valery Giscard d' Estaing.

In the Middle East, the Iraq-Iran war resulted in widening differences among Arab countires. Egypt, Jordan, Maghreb, Qatar, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, North Yemen backed Iraq while South Yemen, Syria and Libya stood alongside Iran.

In the international arena, the U.S. began consultations with its allies in an attempt to ward off the repercussions of Iraq's miscalculation. The U.S. sought to create a joint naval force to protect the Strait of Hormuz. The former Soviet Union responded with concern that the greater presence of American and NATO forces in the Persian Gulf would create tension, accusing Washington of a pre-planned aggression against Iran and other regional countries.



Damaged Offshore Oil Well Capped by Muslim Workers

(Tehran Times Service)

The Ba'athist regime in Baghdad had confessed time and again that in order to preserve the interests of the superpowers, it had made the Islamic Republic of Iran the target of is invasion and aggression in an effort to halt the advance of the Islamic Revolution. During a period of more than three years, the regime of Saddam had never exercised any hesitation as regards attacking Iranian towns and cities with Soviet made ground to ground rockets, resorting to chemical warfare or bombing offshore oil platforms in the Persian Gulf using French made Exocet missiles among other things.

Early in 1983, the no. 3 Nowrooz offshore well in the Persian Gulf was hit by a French made Exocet missile and, as a result of the damage sustained, an estimated 2000 barrels of oil per day started to leak into the Persian Gulf waters.

The question of resulting contamination of the Persian Gulf waters received widescale coverage in the Western mass media and all the environmentalists expressed their concern over the issue.

Despite Iran's immediate declaration of being prepared to carry out any necessary step to cap the leaking well, the Ba'athist regime of Saddam Hussein, despite having signed the 1978 Kuwait Convention on the Protection of the Persian Gulf waters (according to which attacking the Iranian offshore wells was illegal in the first place), insisted on Iran accepting a total cease-fire in all fronts of the war, before it undertook to make any cooperation pledges!

The Ba'athist regime's only reason for attacking the mentioned offshore platform was obviously another desperate attempt to force Iran to accept an imposed cease-fire. For that reason the Islamic Republic refused to have anything to do with the ridiculous demands of the Ba'athist regime.

In the meantime, the Western mass media which never leave the puppets of the West alone in difficult times, had made too much of the nonsenses that only American technology and experts had the capability to cap the damaged oil well, thus trying to put further pressure on the Islamic Republic and waiting to put all kinds of blames upon it for not accepting the cease-fire.

It was against this background that on the 25th of September 1983, the then Oil Minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Mohammad Gharazi, disclosed in a press conference that at 12.15 on Sunday 18th September 1983, coinciding with the auspicious Eid-ul-Adha, as a result of an operation named Allah-o-Akbar and code-named Ya-Mahdi, the no. 3 Nowrooz oil well had been sealed thus stopping the leakage of oil into the waters of the Persian Gulf.

Gharazi said to the reporters: "...This task was performed not by our engineers but by our worker brothers. It shows that when faced with the challenge, our engineers can accomplish much more important tasks with the help of their worker brothers."

The workers taking part in this operation, who were from Tehran Oil Refinery, said that due to the fact that it had been claimed by the West and East that only American experts were capable of capping the well, they considered accomplishing this task to be a religious duty so that wile giving the American imperialism a hard punch on the face, they could prove to the oppressed people of the world that by relying on Allah and trying to stand on their own feet, they were capable of overcoming many problems.

These workers said hey were not prepared to disclose details of the operation before Imam Khomeini would grant them the permission to do so. All he environmentalists monitoring the Persian Gulf waters had confirmed that the leakage of oil from the Nowrooz offshore platform had completely ceased.

In connection with the readiness of the Islamic Republic of Iran to cooperate with the countries of the Persian Gulf for clearing up the contamination of the Persian Gulf waters, Mohammad Gharazi, the then Oil Minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran said: "We have always declared our readiness to remove the pollution of the Persian Gulf, whether it be caused by the leakage of oil or by the presence of the United States".

Chronology of United Nations Negotiations to End the Iran-Iraq War

Informal and Unofficial Background Note

PART 3

September 29-30

Secretary-General and his Special Representative Olof Palme meet the foreign ministers of Iran and Iraq in New York.

October 31

Security Council adopts Resolution 540 (1983) condemning violations of international humanitarian law, calling for the immediate cessation of all military operations against civilian targets, affirming the right of free navigation in the Persian Gulf and calling on states to refrain from actions which might further escalate the conflict. The resolution also requests the secretary-general to continue his mediation efforts and to consult with the parties on ways to sustain and verify the cessation of hostilities, including the possible dispatch of United Nations observers.

November 22

Iran asks secretary-general to send second fact-finding mission to area to update previous report on civilian areas.

December 5

Secretary-General of the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council meets secretary-general to ask for action to prevent spreading of conflict.

December 11

Secretary-General reports to the Security Council on situation and on positions of both parties on Resolution 540.

1984

February 10

Secretary-General addresses separate messages to Iran and Iraq expressing his concern at the mounting toll in life and continued suffering, indicates intention to dispatch a "dual purpose" mission to the war-stricken areas in both countries, which would also hold talks in both capitals concerning other questions related to the conflict.

March 8

Secretary-General announces dispatch of mission to investigate Iranian allegations concerning the use of chemical weapons.

March 13-18

United Nations team of specialists inspects evidence in war zone.

March 26

"Report of the specialists appointed by the secretary-general to investigate allegations by the Islamic Republic of Iran concerning the use of chemical weapons" submitted to Security Council. Secretary-General deplores use of chemical weapons.

March 30

Security Council strongly condemns the use of chemical weapons, calls on the states concerned to observe the Geneva Protocol of 1925, condemns all violations of international humanitarian law and calls for a ceaes-fire and a peaceful solution to the conflict.

June 1

On an initiative by members of the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council, the Security Council adopts Resolution 552 (1984) calling upon all states to respect the right of free navigation and demanding that attacks on commercial ships en route to Kuwait and Saudi Arabia cease.

June 9

Secretary-General addresses message to the presidents of Iran and Iraq calling upon both sides to end, and in the future to refrain from initiating, deliberate military attacks on purely civilian population centers.

June 10

Iran and Iraq accept secretary-general's appeal, both requesting verification measures, with Iraq also specifying that there should be no military concentrations in civilian areas.

June 12

Undertakings by Iran and Iraq in response to secretary-general's appeal to refrain from deliberate military attacks on civilian population centers become effective.

June 14

Secretary-General informs Security Council of his decision to set up two inspection teams to verify allegations of violation of the agreement to end attacks on civilian areas. On June 15, council members agreed with secretary-general's proposed measures.

(To be cont'd)



Whys and Wherefores of Imposed War

Tehran Times Service

PART 4

Imam Khomeini, the late Leader of the Islamic Revolution, in his meeting on February 28, 1981 with the selected delegation of the Islamic Conference, composed of the heads and officials of 8 countries and the chairman of the Islamic Conference which was commissioned by the Islamic countries summit conference, held in Taef in January 1981 to end the hostilities, emphasized in response to their requests for establishing peace:

"If a party of Muslims, supposing they are Muslims, attacks another party, it is the duty of all Muslims to fight it ... Find out if we started the aggression or them. If you find out that we were the aggressors, then you have to fight us, and if you found them guilty of invasion, you should fight them. Peace between Islam and blasphemy is meaningless."

3. The Seditious and Opportunistic Policies of Ba'ath Party and Its Failure to Meet Its Commitments

As we said before, the nature of the Ba'ath Party and its ideological roots and the deceitful policies of the regime of Baghdad made it impossible to have trust in any reconciliation and possible agreements. This policy was not merely aimed at Iran, rather foreign policy of Baghdad in relation to all countries basically originates from deception and opportunistic interests and was based upon exploiting opportunities and illegitimate considerations. The seige of Kuwait by the Iraqi forces in 1973, occupation of part of its teritory, and Iraq's claim of ownership over Kuwait (as a part of the Basra Province) and the Islands to Varbeh and Boobian were major proofs of the claim.

In this connection, Iraq's possessions of or claim of ownership over territories in its borders with other neighboring Arab countries, notably Saudi Arabia and Jordan, can be mentioned.

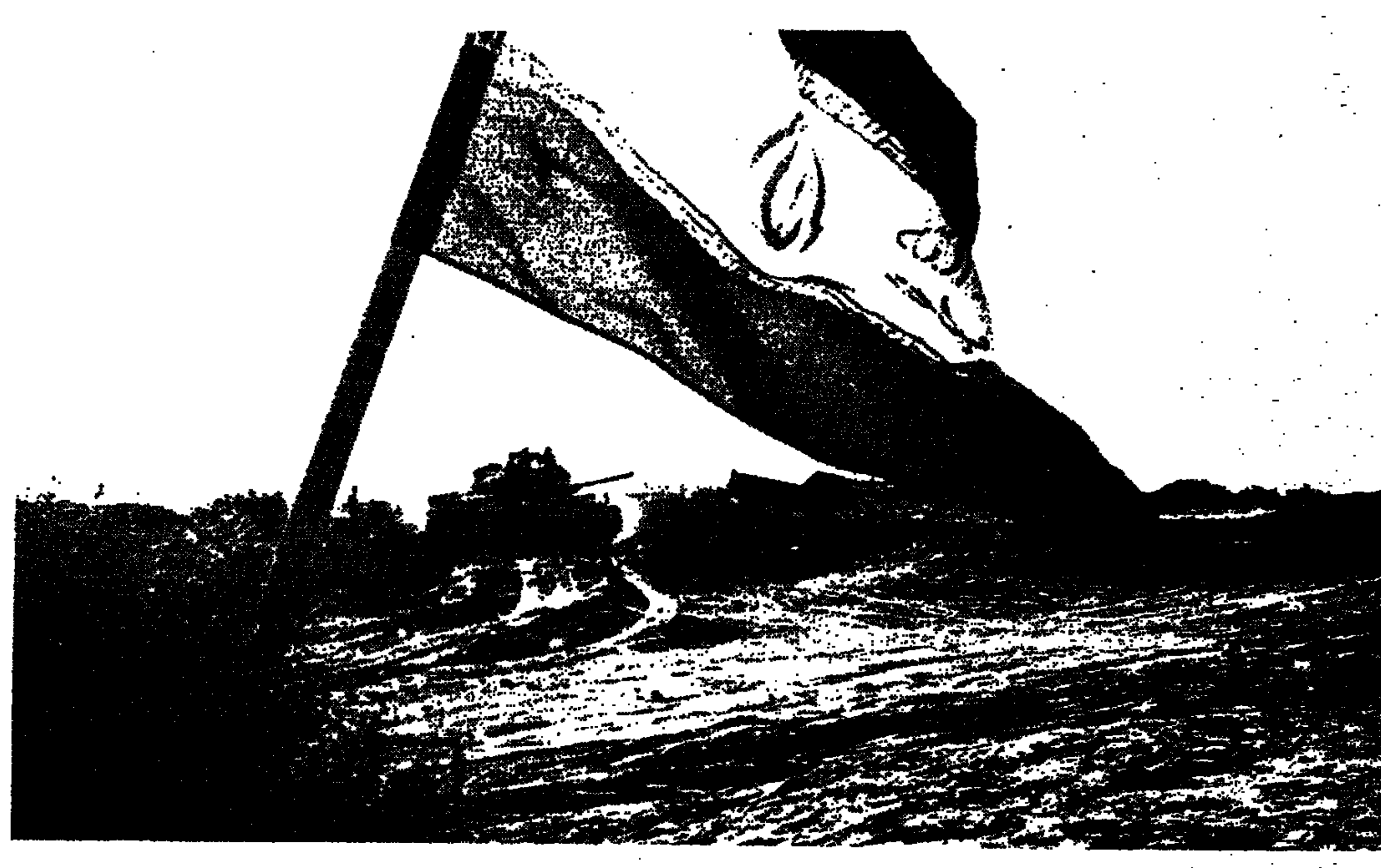
The Iraqi regime at the beginning of the conflict by unilaterally nullifying the 1975 accord disregarding internationally recognized principles, commitments and even what it had endorsed itself and the statements made by the Iraqi authorities during their initial advancements into the Iranian territory revealed its true nature and objectives. A tracing back of the statements of the Ba'athist regime of Iraq at the outbreak of the conflict and after indicated that in order to fulfill its expansionist desires and to prolong its own survival, it had frequently made contradictory statements and changed face in accordance with its circumstantial interests.

In April 1980, in an interview reported by the news agencies, Saddam announced three conditions to end the war:

1) Unconditional withdrawal of Iranian forces from the Tonb and Abu-Musa Islands.

2) Return to Arvand Rood to its former, pre-1975 status.

3) Recognition of Khuzestan as a part of Arab world (with the false name of Arabestan).







In the same day, attending a gathering in northern Iraq he said:

"Iraq is prepared to use force to settle its differences with Iran."

During the preliminary efforts of the peace delegation of the Islamic Conference, Saddam who had not yet tasted the bitterness of defeat, said:

Taha Yasin Ramazan, in an interview with Al-Sawrah, the Ba'ath Party official paper, said:

"The war will not end until the ruling regime of Iran is totally overthrown, because the principle differences which caused the war are not one-hundred sq. km of land or half of the Shatt-ul-Arab estuary. Thus, our war with Iran is not over border disputes that can be postponed as claimed by some traitors to the Arab people. In fact it is a war of fate." When the Iraqi forces were pushed back merely under the pressure of Islamic combatants and not because of their own will, how could we accept their claims and outcries for peace.

Changes in Iraq's political stands and their conformity to the new conditions and interests — serving only its satanic interests with no regard for international and humanistic principles — could be proved by many examples: This regime after the Camp David Accord rejected the position of the Countries of Steadfast Front as moderate and insufficient and called for firmer measures. After its continuous defeats at the hands of the Iranian soldiers in order to gain the support of international Zionism and U.S. imperialism and some Arab reactionary regimes, Iraq paved the way for the return of Egypt to the Arab League and at the same time clearly revealed its position with tacit recognition of the Tel-Aviv regime. In order to exploit and gain more freedom of action for its forces and to employ them against the attacks of the Islamic republic's forces, Iraq, by acting contrary to all international laws and accepting humiliation welcomed the entrance of the Turkish forces into the northern parts of Iraq and the maintenance of security in that part of the Iraqi territory by a foreign government. It was undoubtedly a betrayal of all Islamic and liberation movements throughout the world, if corruption and sedition were left out. As the Qoran says: *Fight against the infidels until there is no sedition and the religion of God is established.*

Imam Khomeini on June 12, 1982 said:

"If we ignore Iraq's aggression, we have ignored a spiritual matter, that is we have encouraged an oppressor."

The demand for the punishment of a regime that had no respect for the principles and norms governing international relations and irresponsibly and unilaterally violated recognized treaties and destroyed cities and civilian areas massacring civilian people adds more disgraceful pages to the history of antihumane crimes, has historical precedents. Following the defeat of the Nazi Germany, the afflicted states punished the fascist leaders and put them on trial according to international laws, and succeeded in receiving war compensation and in the process disintegrated the German territory.

Hard Homecoming for Persian Gulf's Unwanted Asian Workers

BOMBAY — Tens of thousands of South Asians this week are burying hopes of a future working in the United Arab Emirates and seeking a one way ticket home before the Persian Gulf state's immigration authorities catch up with them.

Scores of Indians filed off a jetliner at Bombay Airport on Saturday, one of the many planes shuttling unwanted workers out of the emirates.

Gamba Ram, an unskilled laborer, gave this phlegmatic account of their plight.

"Everybody had to come out because staying in the country would have caused more problems. Even though we didn't have any money we came somehow. Some of us even borrowed money to buy our tickets. We faced some difficulties but we had to abide by the rules of that country."

Similar stories will be heard in other destinations round the region -- in Dhaka, Karachi, Colombo and Manila.

The UAE two months ago gave foreign workers without legal documents a September 30 deadline to get their papers in order to leave the country. Otherwise, they and their employers would face hefty fines and possibly jail.

But many have delayed leaving until the last days of the amnesty, desperately trying to get the proper documents or waiting in the forlorn hope that the UAE would have a change of heart.

Diplomats reckon that 200,000 of the 1.8 million foreigners living in the UAE will have to leave or be booted out.

The jobs they held in the emirates were low paying but provided them with a meal ticket and the chance to send some money back to the families they left behind.

Often they paid huge sums of money to sometimes crooked agents to fix flights, jobs and work permits in the Persian Gulf.

A typical cross-section of people making the trek back home would probably be a Filipino or Sri Lankan housemaid, a Pakistani oil field worker, an Indian shop assistant, and a Bangladeshi building laborer.

People from the region flocked to the Persian Gulf in the early 1970s when the Arab states began mopping up megabucks by exporting oil to the world.

They went to build the highways and construct the modern sparkling white cites that now fringe the western Persian Gulf — all paid for with oil money.

And for the oil industry itself they laid pipelines across the desert, and built refineries and ports.

They filled jobs from the most menial to the very highly qualified. Most came from the Indian subcontinent.

There are no complaints from the governments of countries affected by the UAE's clampdown. But as the Persian Gulf economies adjust to the idea that oil money no longer buys as much, foreign workers will be increasingly nervous about their status.

Indian government officials say the UAE authorities have shown some sympathy over the logistical headache of getting so many people out at once.

They said there are up to 60,000 Indians working illegally in the UAE. The Indian Embassy has already arranged exit visas for 40,000 of them and is fixing extra air and sea transport to fetch other stranded nationals.

Half of India's migrant workers come from the southwest state of Kerala, where there are plans to establish a $196 million rehabilitation program.

Bangladesh's government says the 30,000 people it expects to be returning will have to fend for themselves, but it has asked the national airline to put on extra flights.

"The government has no plan as such to help or compensate the returnees," said Bangladesh's Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad.

The Philippines and Sri Lanka both foresee about 10,000 of their citizens, mostly maids, being ruled illegal in the UAE. But both government and employment agencies expected many will fix their documentation or make arrangements to return legally.

(Reuter)



Farmworkers Are Bottom of the World Wage-Earning League

GENEVA — Farmworkers are bottom of the league of the world's wage-earners, existing well below the poverty line in most countries, the International Labor Organization (ILO) said.

The UN body said in a report that in 40 percent of the 45 countries it had reviewed farmworkers did not even receive a subsistence wage. Most had no social security protection and many were at serious risk from pesticides.

The report was issued as representatives of employers, workers and trade unions prepared to discuss the problem in an ILO-organized conference here from Monday to Friday.

The ILO noted that farm laborers on average worked for only 175 days a year, being left virtually without income for the rest of the time. In 18 of the 45 countries covered, real wages had fallen in the past decade and in eight others they had not progressed.

The report estimated at 440 million the number of wage-earning farmworkers in the world out of a total of 1.1 billion in the sector, a third of them women and another third children in some developing countries.

Nearly 80 percent are in Asia (60 percent in China and India alone), followed by 14.3 percent in Africa and 3.6 percent in Latin America.

Highlighting the danger from pesticides, the ILO said that even in the United States the U.S. environmental protection agency classed agriculture as one of the three most dangerous activities and put the number of those poisoned each year at tens of thousands.

In Costa Rica, the report said, 4.5 percent of the agricultural workforce suffered similarly each year.

The ILO said laborers were also at greater risk from accidents while working or during transport to and from the fields, often packed into trucks in "inhuman" conditions.

The ILO put the subsistence wage level at the ability to pay for a kilo (2.2 pounds) of basic food grains with the income from an hour's work.

This capacity varies from five minutes in Sweden to more than six hours in the Central African Republic, with India being the average at 37 minutes.

In five out of 12 developing countries with high rural populations that were analyzed — Brazil, Guatemala, Honduras, the Philippines and Zambia — more than half of farmworkers were below this poverty line.

In Egypt, Morocco and Pakistan, the proportion was below 25 percent, the ILO said.

In the past decade farmworkers' real wages had risen by 30 percent or more in just six countries, Argentina, Colombia, Cameroon, Nigeria, the Philippines and Sweden, the report said.

The ILO predicted that over the next 10 years the size of the agricultural workforce would continue to rise in the world, but would come down in Eastern Europe and the countries of the former Soviet Union.

(AFP)

Pan-African Conference Calls for Better Prison Conditions

KAMPALA — A three-day Pan-African Conference on Prison Conditions ended here with a call on governments to improve their budgets for prison departments and to institute legislative reforms to ease congestion in prison cells.

The conference, attended by over 200 participants from 40 African countries, including government officials, human rights activists, journalists and judges, noted that the debt burden had forced governments to think last about prison budgets, which it said led to poor staff remuneration and lack of structural developments in prison departments, despite increasing demographic pressure.

The participants singled out overcrowding as a major challenge and recommended in their final report titled, "The Kampala Declaration," that penal reforms on punishment of offenders should be immediately instituted.

The measures, they said, should include replacing custodial sentences to petty offenders with customary practices that will guarantee human rights.

They admitted, however, that statistical data on appalling prisons conditions were either nonexistent in many African countries, or where they existed, governments had no guts to release them.

The over-enthusiastic participants, particularly human rights activists and prisons workers, said they believed that the Kampala conference, which ended late Saturday, had made a major break-through of "winning a sympathetic ear from governments in the region, which had now developed a sense of willingness and commitment to improve these conditions."

"It is our firm belief that prison reforms are ideas that have come at the right time," Ugandan prison chief Joseph Etima told participants.

The conference was told that last year in neighboring Kenya alone, there were some 90 deaths in prisons every month, though similar deaths in other African countries were kept secret.

The participants were also told that in Uganda, prisoners went naked, had little food to eat and lacked medical care.

Consequently, the Kampala declaration called for good living conditions in prisons compatible with human dignity and that prisons regulations should not aggravate the sufferings already caused by the loss of liberty.

It also called on the African Commission on Human and People's Rights to nominate a special rapporteur to monitor prison conditions throughout the continent.

(AFP)

Torture Conference for Stockholm

STOCKHOLM — The Human Right Organization Amnesty International said it is organizing an international conference here October 4-6 aimed at stamping out the use of torture.

Amnesty said that delegates from some 50 countries would attend the conference with representatives from the United Nations, the Council of Europe, nongovernmental organizations, police officers, legal experts, and doctors.

The debates will be held in closed session as some of those taking part will be from countries where torture is used.

(AFP)

International Rights Groups Press Tunisian President

PARIS — Five international groups say Tunisia's human rights situation is worsening, citing harassment, torture and the jailing of thousands of political prisoners.

"The repressive and arbitrary practices against human rights defenders have become increasingly widespread and obvious," the groups said in a letter dated Sept. 23 to Tunisian President Zine el-Abidine ben Ali.

"Thousands of individuals convicted for their beliefs and in unfair trials fill the prisons in your country, the practice of torture continues," said the organizations including Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch.

Families of the prisoners and human rights activists "are being increasingly intimidated," the letter said. "The press has also been increasingly targeted," it said, adding that "several foreign journalists have been expelled."

The letter, faxed Sunday to the Associated Press in Paris, called on Ben Ali to "ensure that the necessary measures are taken to put an end to human rights violations and attacks on freedom in your country."

Other groups signing the letter were the International Federation for Human Rights, the Lawyers Committee for Human Rights and Reporters Without Borders.

There was no immediate comment from the Tunisian government.

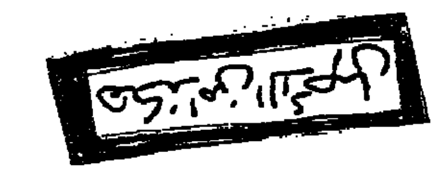
Ben Ali has cracked down on opposition leaders and human rights activists since his reelection in March 1994 to a five-year term.

In July, a court gave a five-year sentence to Khemaies Chamari, 51, a member of Parliament and vice president of the opposition Social Democratic Movement.

Chamari was accused of interfering with an investigation of Mohamed Moada, the 57-year-old president of the movement who was sentenced in February to 11 years for his alleged relations with Libya.

Najib Hosni, a lawyer and human rights activist detained since June 1994, was sentenced in January this year to eight years.

(AP)



Cautious Tycoon Pitches for Hong Kong Leadership

HONG KONG — Shipping tycoon Tung Chee-Hwa has stepped into the limelight as the most substantial candidate so far in Hong Kong's 1997 leadership contest, ending months of suspense and public speculation about his intentions.

But although Tung's reputed possession of the cardinal Chinese virtues of modesty, wisdom and caution plus strong ties to China make him look a strong contender, Beijing may ultimately regard him as too independent, analysts say.

The 59-year-old magnate cuts a striking figure with his hallmark gray crewcut hair, bright eyes and hand-on-heart gestures while speaking.

He announced his likely candidacy on Thursday but, true to form, he gave himself an escape clause by saying he would wait a few weeks before finally confirming that he would formally throw his hat into the ring.

At stake is the job of chief executive, successor to the colonial British Governor Chris Patten who departs next year after the colony reverts to Chinese sovereignty at midnight on June 30.

China is forming a 400-member selection committee in Hong Kong, which will pick the chief executive and the members of a new legislature. The committee, to be set up next month, will name the designated leader before the end of this year.

British officials have long said privately they would be happy to see Tung in the hot seat if Beijing excluded their favorite, Patten's second-in-command, Anson Chan.

The general public favors Tung, they note, since the other two self-declared candidates so far — lawyer Lo Tak-Shing and Chief Justice Sir Ti Liang Yang — have both caused stirs during the past year with remarks that aroused doubts about their commitment to human rights, basic freedoms and democracy.

Yang sparked a political uproar in November by criticizing, in front of Chinese officials, a Hong Kong bill of rights brought in by Patten. Lo raised eyebrows by saying journalists should be arrested if they preached ideas such as Taiwan independence.

Tung has a reputation for integrity, administrative talent, self-discipline, discretion and good judgement, political analysts say.

But he might be too good, they say. "They might find him too independent," a senior official said.

"It is hard to see Beijing favoring someone with a local power base, who really means to run the show," said legislator and lawyer Margaret Ng.

"The job is too vital to give somebody they cannot trust, and this does not look like the profile of someone who they can trust implicitly," she said.

Tung has links with the powerful and mighty in the corridors of the key capitals — Beijing, Taipei, London and Washington — whose influence will be important for Hong Kong after it becomes an autonomous special administrative region of China.

He has lately started tapping the views of local political parties and grass-root organizations to draft a policy proposal for Hong Kong's future government.

He has served on China-controlled bodies preparing for the handover and resigned in June from Patten's inner cabinet, the Executive Council, to avoid a conflict of interest.

But he was typically modest about his candidacy. "I just want to offer one more choice for the selection committee. More people should also come forward," Tung said.

He was identified as a possible favorite of China for the chief executive's post when President Jiang Zemin singled him out for a personal handshake at a meeting in Beijing this year.

Born in Shanghai in 1937, Tung grew up as the son of a shipping tycoon and philanthropist. He took over the helm of the orient overseas empire when his father died in 1979.

Reuter

Japanese Top Official Says Oct. 20 Vote '99.9%' Certain

TOKYO — Japan moved closer to scheduling a parliamentary election on Oct. 20 when the government's top spokesman said Saturday that he was "99.9 percent" certain the vote would be held on that date.

Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto is believed to favor a quick vote because his popularity is up following a recent compromise over reducing U.S. military bases on Okinawa.

No date has been formally announced, but Chief Cabinet Secretary Seiroku Kajiyama said in a speech Saturday in Odate, about 525 kilometers (325 miles) north of Tokyo, that the Oct. 20 date is almost certain.

"I am 99.9 percent sure," he said.

Hashimoto's dominant Liberal Democratic Party now governs in a coalition with two smaller parties, but with polls showing strong support, it would like to bolster its hold in Parliament.

The coalition partners favor a later vote, but they have gone along with the more powerful liberal democrats and said the setting of the election was in Hashimoto's hands.

Voters will choose the 500 members of Parliament's more powerful Lower House, which selects the prime minister.

UPI

NATO Breaks New Ground With Bosnia Poll

SARAJEVO — NATO's mission in Bosnia may have finally answered the question: Ehat is the alliance for now the Cold War is over?

In less than a year the alliance that won the East-West confrontation without firing a shot in anger has moved from peace enforcer to peace supervisor in a mission unthinkable during the Cold War.

When Bosnians voted last Saturday, NATO troops policed roads, patrolled polling stations and escorted ballot boxes to counting centers. The 55,000 soldiers ensured the vote passed off smoothly.

In sharp contrast to the United Nations, which left Bósnia with its credibility in tatters, NATO has used the Balkans to enhance its reputation and confirm itself as the European continent's pre-eminent security organization.

The only criticism stems from its failure to arraign indicted war criminals, particularly the Bosnian Serbs' wartime leader Radovan Karadzic and his army commander Ratko Mladic.

Supporters of NATO say that task was deliberately left out of its mission aims and will be fulfilled only when there is sufficient political will in national capitals.

Senior NATO officials say the challenge for the alliance now is to build quickly on the Bosnian experience, particularly links forged with former enemies who participated in the NATO-led peace Implementation Force (IFOR).

"We have to show IFOR was not just a one-night stand," said one senior NATO official.

"The challenge is not just getting Bosnia right, but making NATO a permanent feature of the new security landscape now taking shape in Europe."

That begins next week when NATO defense ministers gather in Norway for the first formal discussion of what sort of force to leave in Bosnia when the current mandate expires in December.

Western allies accept that a force has to stay in order to prevent conflict and give the Dayton Peace Accords time to take root, but its exact size, mandate, duration and composition are yet to be agreed.

Many countries, however, want it to take another step in the direction of a 'new NATO'.

Germany has indicated it may commit ground troops and a more flexible, less U.S.-dominated command structure, with Russian participation, could be used.

Former Warsaw Pact enemies, such as Poland and Hungary, see close cooperation in the force as a way of strengthening their case for full NATO membership early next year — an issue which will require a new NATO-Russia deal on European security.

"We want the follow-on force to be as groundbreaking as IFOR," the official added.

Despite earlier warnings of 'mission creep', officials say the most powerful military alliance ever assembled did far more than just provide the security blanket to allow Saturday's polls to take place. It [illegible] good as ran the elections.

NATO's military were closely involved in the detailed planning process, making available its hi-tech infrastructure to poll organizers from the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE).

Robert Frowick, the head of the OSCE mission in Bosnia, described NATO's effort as 'brilliant' and said the polls would not have been possible without its presence.

Finally let off the leash in the summer of 1995, the alliance used airstrikes to force the Bosnian Serbs to pull back their heavy guns and end the 3-12 year siege of Sarajevo.

Reuter



